Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you attended or do you plan to attend any of the candidate forums and debates being held in the runup to the Nov. 7 elections?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of October 26, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Convicted

A South Korean scientist who falsely claimed to have achieved major breakthroughs in stem cell research has been convicted.

ASIA...Page 17

Cancer Victim

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

EMO hoists tropical storm watch for NMI. **PAGE 2**

Driver in fatal As Lito crash cited for speeding. **PAGE 3**

Cops, firefighters demand pay hike, fair promotions

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Police officers, their families and supporters hold a protest march from the Legislature to the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday morning, demanding pay increases for eligible police officers and a desk audit at the Department of Public Safety. Inset shows one of the protesters holding a placard right outside the governor's conference room, where they later held a closed-door meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, senior policy adviser Ray Mafnas, and Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Accompanied by friends and family members, over 20 police officers and firefighters rallied in front of the administration building on Capital Hill yesterday morning to ask for pay increases and a fair promotion policy at the department.

See COPS on Page 4

$300K *desk audit for* DPS, DPH *in the works*

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A $300,000 contract for a desk audit of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Public Health is being finalized, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos disclosed right after meeting yesterday morning with over 30 police officers and their families who held a peaceful march to demand pay increases and a desk audit at DPS.

Inos said the desk audit, which is critical in evaluating pay increases and promotions,

See $300K on Page 4

Alien workers line up for 'umbrella permits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A long line of alien workers greeted yesterday the Department of Labor's first day of distribution of transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits," with hundreds of workers trooping to Labor early in the morning.

A police vehicle was posted near the entrance of the former Halinas Kitchen where Labor officials entertained the work-

See ALIEN on Page 4

Bill OK'd to let Tinian obtain loan from MPLT

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed a local law that may pave the way for the Tinian mayor to borrow up to $1 million from the Marianas Public Lands Trust.

The money is being eyed to pay $520,913.84 in retroactive salaries of municipal employ-

See BILL on Page 4

PACIFIC JUDICIAL COUNCIL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pacific Judicial Council began its 2009 Biennial Conference Monday morning, with CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan calling the conference to order. The Council is composed of the judiciaries of the CNMI, Guam, the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The conference is at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan from Oct. 25 to 29. ***See story on Page 8.***

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Local

EMO hoists tropical storm watch for NMI

A tropical storm watch is now in effect on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan due to a tropical depression that is forming east of Guam.

According to an Emergency Management Office advisory issued yesterday, tropical-storm force winds of 39 mph or higher are possible in the next 24 to 48 hours.

At 1pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Depression 23W was located about 400 miles east-southeast of Guam and 385 miles east-southeast of Saipan.

Tropical Depression 23W is moving west-northwest at 15 mph and is expected to continue to move in this direction in the next 12 to 24 hours while passing just north of Guam this afternoon.

Maximum sustained winds are 30 mph. Tropical Depression 23W is expected to intensify and may become a tropical storm within the next 12 to 24 hours.

EMO is advising the public, including the northern islands of Agrihan, to closely follow the progress of this system over the next couples of days through the EMO and local media sources. ***(EMO)***

Lawmen arrest DFW staff for alleged 'ice' trafficking

Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested last week an employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife for his alleged involvement in the distribution of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Raymond Borja Roberto, 36, was arrested Tuesday and was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for a hearing the following day. The case was then sealed.

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson unsealed the case yesterday.

The complaint charged Roberto with one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

DEA special agent Brian Todd said that on Dec. 2, 2008, a confidential source of the Department of Public Safety disclosed that Roberto is the source of supply for "ice" on Saipan.

Todd said DEA conducted a buy-bust operation on Dec. 29, 2008, during which the confidential source was able to purchase $150 worth of "ice" from Roberto at his house in As Lito.

The court allowed Roberto to post a collateral bond of $25,000 plus other conditions for his temporary liberty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
How do You Support Tourism?
Here's what some of you had to say...
I tell tourists to go to Managaha to enjoy snorkeling and see the fish!
Rose Shirata
I'm taking up Business Hospitality in college, and they teach us how to express ourselves toward our visitors in a positive way. It starts with our smile!
Arnold Atalig
We show tourists directions to Mt. Tapochau, because they often get lost and come to our house. Sometimes we tell them if there is a good sale at DFS or Joeten, or we call a taxi if they need one.
Alleny and Kimiko Tenorio
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY
This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Driver in fatal As Lito crash cited for speeding

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police investigation showed that the driver of the vehicle that killed a pedestrian in As Lito on Saturday was not intoxicated but was speeding.

Traffic investigators also determined that the driver was a 25-year-old male Chamorro and that the passenger was his girlfriend.

The Department of Public Safety withheld the name of the driver, who was cited for violating CNMI Vehicle Code.

DPS identified the victim as Joselito Baysauli Falalimpa, 44, Filipino, a resident of As Lito.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said Falalimpa, who had trauma to the head and lower extremities, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saturday at 11:30pm.

Falalimpa, a steelman/mason, had been an employee of RNV Construction for the past 10 years.

Tarkong said that on Saturday at 10:24pm, police officers and fire fighters responded to a report of a vehicular accident along Monsignor Martinez Road near the intersection leading to the former LP Gas Company.

Preliminary investigation showed that the driver of a beige 2002 Toyota Rav-4 was driving south on Monsignor Martinez Road when a pedestrian, Falalimpa, suddenly ran in front of the car to cross the road.

The Rav-4 swerved to the left and onto the northbound lane to avoid the pedestrian but still hit Falalimpa. The driver and his girlfriend turned the car around and drove back to check on the pedestrian.

The driver parked the car by the Stop and Go BBQ Stand.

DPS emergency personnel arrived at the scene and found the victim without a pulse and not breathing.

The victim was transported to CHC where he was pronounced dead.

The Rav-4 was towed to DPS, impounded, and secured as evidence.

Tarkong said the case is still under investigation and a request will be made to the Office of the Attorney General for an autopsy on the victim.

Falalimpa's wife, Mariel, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that a friend knocked on their house's door to inform her about the accident.

Mariel said that when she ran to the scene, she saw her husband was already dead on the road. She added that she later saw a woman coming down from the driver's side of the vehicle.

Mariel said when police officers arrived they also talked to the woman.

Saipan Tribune learned that prior to the accident, Falalimpa, his wife Mariel, and two minor daughters had attended a party near Shell Station in Dandan.

As the children were sleepy, Mariel brought them home, leaving Falalimpa at the party.

A friend later dropped Falalimpa in front of his barracks in As Lito. When Falalimpa crossed the road, the speeding vehicle hit him. The victim was said to be intoxicated at the time.

Mariel said a nightly 6pm Mass is being held at San Vicente Church. After the Mass, a rosary follows at their barracks in As Lito.

Falalimpa will be buried on Saipan on Nov. 3.

Student Council sets forum for gubernatorial bets

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All four candidates for governor will face each other again this Thursday, Oct. 29, in another forum, this time organized by the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College.

Covenant Party standard-bearer Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Republican Party candidate Heinz Hofschneider, and independent contenders Juan T. Guerrero and Ramon Deleon Guerrero confirmed yesterday their attendance in the two-hour event at the NMC campus.

ASNMC president Miles Rodriguez said the council took a month to prepare for the forum, which will start at 4:30pm. Over a hundred students from NMC and high school students in both private and public schools are expected to attend.

Flyers, posters, and other form of invitation have already been disseminated.

Rodriguez said a total of 12 questions—strictly from the students—will be asked of each candidate. There will be four categories: education, economy, social issues, and environment.

Each candidate will be given two minutes for an opening statement and two minutes to respond to each question. For their closing statements, they are permitted three minutes.

This way, Rodriguez said, each contender will have an equal opportunity to address the concerns of young voters.

"For every category, three questions will be asked of them. These were all prepared by our students. This forum is very important to us because majority of students will base their votes on how these candidates will respond to their concerns," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMC is home to over 8,000 students, including foreign enrollees. The ASNMC expects groups of high school students to join the forum.

Rodriguez said they organized the event after considering that students mostly are not able to attend debates and forums in the community.

"This is to help our students get a better understanding of the many issues affecting them. This forum will allow them to choose the right candidate when they vote on Nov. 7," she said.

The event is also in collaboration with the Current Issues class of NMC instructor Sam McPhetres.

'Election survey'

McPhetres' class is also doing a survey among registered voters, the results of which will be disclosed after the election. The poll results will be compared with the actual results.

The survey form, which has four questions, was first circulated among the audience in the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored senatorial debate last week and the gubernatorial forum held Friday at Kagman Community Center.

The survey questions are:

- Which tandem do you plan to vote for in the gubernatorial election?
- Who do you plan to vote for in the mayoral election?
- Who do you plan to vote for in the senatorial election?
- How do you plan to vote on the initiatives?

The same survey forms will be disseminated in scheduled election-related events this week.

Just 1 of 8 senatorial bets back full abolition of poker in CNMI

Only one of eight senatorial contenders for Saipan support the full abolition of poker arcades on island.

During a recent forum held for senatorial bets by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Tina Sablan cited the grave social impact of poker arcades, saying it is high time for the community to stop its "addiction" to gambling.

She said the CNMI can come up with other revenues to continue the scholarship programs offered by the Scholarship Office and the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance

A bulk of these two programs' budgets is sourced from poker fees and licenses.

The other candidates—Paul Camacho, Ana Teregeyo, Cinta Kaipat, Ralph Torres, Pete Reyes, Greg Cruz, and Justo Quitugua—jus want poker machines to be properly regulated. They believe the centralization and relocation of these machines could minimize and avert potential social impacts.

All of them also support moving the "entertainment" industry away from villages, schools, and churches. They also want to cut down the operational time of poker arcades from the existing 24-hour schedule.

A bill to centralize the poker industry at the government-acquired La Fiesta Mall and increases the fees for poker licenses was introduced in the present Legislature but this measure has been sitting at the committee up to this time. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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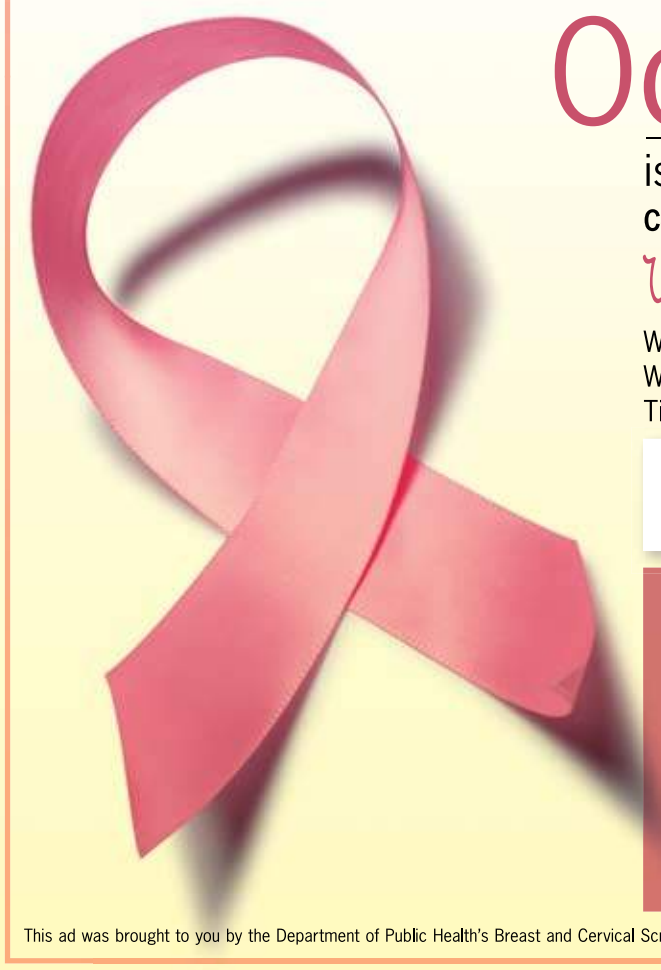

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(Please register before the event at 236-8727/8)

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Accrediting team in two-day visit to NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of a visiting team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges are currently on island to meet with officials of the Northern Marianas College.

Dr. Sherrill Amador, ACCJC commissioner team chair, and team member Dr. Worku Negash, are on a two-day visit to the campus to follow up on plans that the college submitted in its 2006 self-study report.

Saipan Tribune learned that while on campus, the visiting team will be meeting with individuals and groups at the college, including the NMC Board of Regents, the NMC president, leaders of constituent groups such as the Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and the Associated Students of NMC.

They are also expected to meet with members of the college's shared governance groups such as the college council, PROAC, budget, and finance committee.

The visiting team will also follow up on the progress NMC has made in resolving team and commission recommendations for improvement.

In a statement, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said they are confident the visitors will see the progress that the college has made.

"We are confident that the visiting team will find that the momentum we started two years ago in planning, program review, and budgeting has not stopped nor slowed," said Fernandez.

NMC submitted its Mid-Term Report to the ACCJC and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities last Oct.15.

Pursuant to accreditation requirements, all institutions are required to submit periodic reports to the commission. The Mid-Term report is normally due in the third year following the evaluation team visit.

"We have been looking forward to the accreditation team's visit and to sharing the significant accomplishments that the college has achieved," said Fernandez.

The college's accreditation was recently reaffirmed by the ACCJC in its June 2009 meeting.

To prepare for the visit, NMC officials continued the work it had initiated when the college was placed on show-cause status in January 2008, including strengthening the linkage between planning, program review, and resource allocation.

The college has also been continuing its progress on institutionalizing a systematic program review process. NMC recently began its third cycle of program review.

Fernandez said the college has also been hard at work in developing, measuring, and analyzing student learning outcomes; enhancing employee evaluation processes; securing funding to address short- and long-term facilities' needs; and building administrative capacity through the recruitment of highly qualified staff and the provision of recurring professional development opportunities.

BILL

From Page 1

ees, $201,729.96 in debt to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for expenses related to the 60th anniversary commemoration for the Battle of Tinian in 2004, and $277,356.20 for scholarships.

Fitial signed Tinian and Aguingan Local Bill 16-03 on Oct. 21, two days after three of the four members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation passed the local bill.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Saipan) opposes the measure due to the lack of public hearing on a public indebtedness, and concerns about exacerbating Tinian's budget deficit. He said he will issue a separate statement today.

The Fitial administration did not immediately disclose signing the local bill into law last week.

However, a review yesterday of the Senate agenda for today's session revealed that the governor signed the Tinian local law as early as Oct. 21. This information is contained in Governor's Message 16-588 to the Legislature. The Senate is also expected to take up the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget today.

Tinian Local Ordinance 16-2 does not specify the amount that the Tinian municipality is authorized to borrow and incur a public debt.

But an earlier version of the local bill passed on Oct. 15 and later scrapped authorizes Tinian and Aguingan, through its mayor, "to borrow up to an amount not to exceed $1 million from the Marianas Public Land Trust."

Bill Cing, chief executive officer of Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, provided a breakdown of the amount needed for three programs and activities that will be funded by the loan should it be approved by MPLT.

The retroactive pay, the payment to Tinian Dynasty, and future scholarships total $1 million. But the Tinian mayor's office said the loan may not be $1 million.

The $1 million proposed loan from MPLT is an issue separate from the recent emergency declaration for Tinian to be able to reprogram funds for the repair of the outer seawall and piers.

ALIEN

From Page 1

ers. Shortly after Labor opened the door at the former restaurant, a minor commotion broke out among some workers who came early and wanted to be the first in line.

By 10:30am, the long lines have all but disappeared. At 4pm, workers were seen coming in one by one.

A few workers, however, were disappointed after being told to return at a later date as their names could not be located, even though they already have two-year work permits in their possession.

Saipan Tribune tried to ask acting Labor deputy secretary Barry Hirshbein about this but he refused to be interviewed further. Hirshbein responded to some of *Saipan Tribune*'s questions, but later stopped answering.

Hirshbein was the first Labor personnel to entertain the workers by checking their passports and work permits.

Workers arrived as early as 7am, thinking that Labor would open at 7:30am.

Labor first entertained pregnant workers and those carrying babies and small children.

Worker Ignacio Banadera Jr. said the process was fast. He, however, believes that as long as a worker has an employer, the umbrella permit has no effect.

Elena Alcasid, who brought her son, said workers could easily get the permit as long as they have their passport and work permit.

The release of umbrella permits will continue today for workers who have last names that start with letters C and D. Yesterday's permits were for workers with last names beginning in A and B.

Labor is printing 9,000 to 11,000 "umbrella permits" for the first batch of eligible alien workers.

Labor said about 2,500 to 3,000 more "umbrella permits" will be issued for the second batch of workers.

Hirsbein earlier said that if workers fail to get the permits for some reasons, Labor can make accommodations for them. He said they also recognize those who are currently off-island.

The "umbrella permit" are promoted as a means to stabilize the workforce, protect employers and employees, and prevent undue damage to the economy.

Labor said an alien worker should hold the "umbrella permit" for the entire two-year period unless Labor revokes it.

The federalization law states that any Commonwealth-issued permit that is in existence on Nov. 27, 2009, will be honored for two years after the law's transition date. The transition start date is currently set for Nov. 28, 2009.

$300K

From Page 1

has been on the drawing board long before police officers and their families marched from the Legislature to the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill to air their grievances.

"There's a contract that's in process right now. The desk audit is for DPS and CHC. Unfortunately, we only have $300,000 in grant money to do that and the proposal submitted exceeded $1 million so we're trying to do this by department," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

The protesters stood in front of the Office of the Governor, displaying their banners and streamers for government officials and the media.

Minutes later, Inos and senior policy adviser Ray Mafnas met them at the main entrance and ushered them into the conference room.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham later joined Inos and Mafnas in the closed-door meeting with the protesters and their legal counsel, former attorney general Robert Torres.

In an interview right after the meeting, Inos said the Fitial administration recognizes the lack of within-grade pay increases among police officers for as long as five, seven to 10 years mainly because government resources have shrunk by at least 30 percent.

"It's a situation that has been going on for so many years. We are talking about officers who have not received a salary increase. …That's understandable. This government, at least this administration, recognizes that as a liability. And so when the economy improves, we will make sure that liability is extinguished by way of paying back to employees," he said.

Inos said the Fitial administration also want to hear from Police Commissioner Santiago Tudela and DPS management on the grievances aired by the protesting police officers and their families.

"We can't let these officers feel bad about being mistreated or maltreated and so forth. We are going to take care of them because they protect the public," he added.

An evaluation committee is negotiating the exact contract amount and the scope of work for the desk audit.

"It looks like we don't have sufficient funds to do that so what we're going to do is take it department by department," Inos added.

When asked if there will be a reprogramming of funds to pay for the salary increases of qualified DPS personnel, Inos said the Fitial administration will see what it can do "in the interim," adding that details of what was agreed upon during the meeting would remain confidential until all parties are heard.

"We'll see what we can do in the interim. But definitely, the desk audit is going to be important because we want the audit to give us a good snapshot of the organizational structure. Do we have more police sergeants than police officer 1, for example? Interview each employee, find out exactly what they are doing, and then make recommendations as to the proper classification commensurate with pay," Inos said.

The identity of the off-island firm being selected to conduct the desk audit has yet to be disclosed, along with the members of the team evaluating the proposal and the contract.

COPS

From Page 1

The protesters soon left after a 30-minute meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Attorney General Ed Buckingham in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

The police officers and firefighters, who were on leave, began converging with their supporters at the baseball field on Capital Hill as early as 7am.

After assembling at 8:30am, the protesters—carrying placards that read "Fair and Equal Treatment," "Lift Austerity Measures," "Gov't Is Not Broke"—began their rally front of the Governor's Office.

The protesters later proceeded to the Legislature after receiving an invitation from the Senate to meet with lawmakers. After hearing their concerns, most lawmakers promised to help them by introducing and passing bills to address their problems.

Lawyer Robert Torres, who accompanied the protesters, told *Saipan Tribune* that it was a peaceful assembly to advocate for the promotion and pay adjustments of officers at the Department of Public Safety.

Torres said the protesters wanted an immediate end to the austerity measures and called upon the administration and the Legislature to institute corrective measures to treat the officers fairly—"not necessarily over the salary cap but to pay what they are entitled to and end the salary freezes and end the discriminatory treatment."

At 10:20am, the protesters walked back to the administration building. Some lawmakers joined the march.

After reaching the administration building, the protesters, led by Sgt. James Deleon Guerrero, began chanting "Promote and Pay Now!"

After a few minutes, Inos emerged from the building and invited the protesters to a meeting with him and Buckingham.

During the meeting, Inos proposed additional dialogue with government lawyers and the DPS administration, Deleon Guerrero said.

He said the protest was intended to demand for just pay and promotion.

"We want opportunities for officers to be able to go through the competitive selection process rather than handpicking promotions for officers and firefighters," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they have given DPS more than enough opportunity to respond to their concerns and that they just want officers to be compensated accordingly.

"I will not be fully satisfied. We will not be fully satisfied until we have accomplished our objective, which is to lift the austerity measures," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the power to lift the austerity measures resides with the Executive Branch.

"What we need the Legislature to [do] is to pass a new legislation to adjust the pay scales of police officers and to pass legislation barring future administrations from implementing austerity measures," he added.

The first protest initiated by police officers was in the early '90s over the same issues.

Muña says DC plan averted $2.8B Fund liability

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Thanks to the establishment of the defined contribution plan, the NMI Retirement Fund was saved from an accrued actuarial liability of $2.8 billion that it would have incurred by 2045, according to the leader of the administration team that's negotiating with the Fund group.

Before the creation of the defined contribution plan, the Fund was open to new entrants under the defined benefit plan, said Tony Muña.

"In the absence of reform, the projected accrued actuarial liability would have exceeded $2.8 billion by the year 2045 compared to the post-reform projection, using revised assumptions of only $607 million by 2045," Muna told Saipan Tribune, adding that this must be recognized by the Fund.

Muña pointed out that this was the main reason why the Fund was "broke."

Saipan Tribune learned that from 1998 to 2005 alone, the accrued actuarial liability was increasing by $48 million yearly.

As of October 2007, the Fund members' population was at 7,266, according to Muña.

Because of the decrease in Fund membership, its liability also decreased to $879.3 million as of October 2007, from a liability of $1 billion in 2005, he said.

However, Muña said, the Fitial administration's part in controlling the ballooning liability—through the DC plan—has never been recognized by the Fund trustees.

"This administration suspended the growth and created a solution that stopped the membership from growing, but all the Fund is saying now is collect and collect from this government," he said.

The administration respects the court judgment, he said, but the Fund's problem would not stop by just paying what the government owes the Fund.

The Superior Court had determined in June that the government owes over $231 million in employer contributions to the Fund. This amount has increased to $245 million to date.

"We controlled the growth, which was the most important part of finding a solution. If we will just focus on payment, this may never be enough because what you pay today may not be enough to pay for next year because the [accrued actuarial liability] went up again, so the contribution keeps going up," he explained.

Muña wants the Fund to make a new actuarial analysis before he commits the central government to making any payments. He said the 37 percent actuarial rate was based on when the defined benefit plan was still in place.

The administration also wants to revisit the Fund's investment policy and recalculate the government's contribution rate to make sure it is according to the latest data.

Muña said the Fund's operating expenses should also be looked at.

He said that in 2007 alone, the Fund spent $4.5 million for personnel, operation, and payment for its consultants and money managers.

"This is not only talking about the payment but also management of the [accrued actuarial liability]. We believe that we can do further reforms to bring the liability further down and there are some ways," Muna explained.

Al though increasing member's benefits is good, Muña pointed out the importance of having a "guaranteed source" for that purpose.

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2 vans added to Call-A-Ride fleet

The Office of the Council on Developmental Disabilities and CNMI Public School System gathered at an open field adjacent to the PSS Office on Friday, Oct. 23, 2009, for the presentation of two new accessible vans.

The two accessible vans will be assigned to CDD as part of overseeing the Call-A-Ride Program. The vans were purchased under a federal grant through the Federal Transportation Administration.

Among those at the Friday event were the CNMI Independent for living group, council members and staff of the Council on Developmental Disabilities, PSS Board of Education members, PSS staff, and Call-A-Ride drivers.

CDD executive director Pam Sablan expressed her sincere gratitude to PSS, and especially to Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and her staff—Tim Thornburgh, George Palican, Pete Leau, Robert Florian, Rita Dela Cruz—and members of the Board of Education for their efforts in providing the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities with two new accessible vans to add to the Call-A-Ride Transportation Program Vehicle Fleet.

Sablan said that Friday's event "reinforces our commitment and continued effort in working together to provide accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities to be independent citizens able to contribute and participate in all facets of community life in the CNMI.

The event was coordinated by PSS federal program coordinator Jack V. Diaz. ***(PR)***

Politicians do favors for others.
Lawmakers work for all of us.
In these times of change, the CNMI needs lawmakers, not politicians.
VOTE for TINA SABLAN for Senate!
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HAPPY HOUR WITH

JUAN PAN TENORIO GUERRERO & JOSEPH NORITA CAMACHO

Fundraising Happy Hour

Wednesday, October 28, 2009
5:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
Hibiscus Hall
Fiesta Resort & Spa - Saipan

$25.00 PER PERSON (FREE 2 DRINKS)

Live Entertainment

For more details call (670) 483-1728, 233-1729 or visit www.juanpan.jncamacho.com

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-024

"SIGN LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETING SERVICES"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of Sign Language and Interpreting Services. The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Proposals should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"PSS RFP # 09-024"** containing one (l) original and three (3) copies and be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, November 13, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Ms. Suzanne Lizama, Acting SPED Coordinator, at fax # (670) 664-3774 or email to lizamasuzanne@gmail.com. Questions must be submitted no later than Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

Proposers are requested to submit a copy of their CNMI Business License with their proposal.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

UMDA settles with Pfaff for $2.8M

The United Micronesia Development Association said yesterday that a multi-million dollar settlement has been reached with Robert Pfaff in a civil suit in Superior Court of the CNMI relating to harm done to UMDA by Pfaff and other former company insiders during a 10-year period that ended in 2002.

Under the terms of the settlement, Pfaff and related co-defendants, including GET Realty Trust, have forfeited to UMDA their claim on a share of the proceeds of the sale of the LaoLao golf property—a share worth approximately $2,842,000.

"This is a great day for the shareholders of UMDA," said UMDA board chairman and acting president Joe Lifoifoi. "Thanks to prompt action on the part of UMDA management and legal counsel, we were able to prevent Mr. Pfaff and his associates from absconding with $6 million of UMDA's money in April 2007, and today we can say that over the course of this litigation we have returned more than half of it to where it rightly belongs. We will now turn our attention to recovering the remainder of the money from Mr. Pfaff's cronies, both of whom are also convicted criminals."

UMDA had obtained a preliminary injunction from the court in November of 2007 to prevent Pfaff and his co-defendants from removing some $6 million in proceeds from the sale of the LaoLao golf property that rightly belonged to UMDA. The money coming to UMDA in the recent settlement is part of this $6 million fund that has been under the court's stewardship for the last two years. UMDA will continue to press its claims against the other defendants in the civil suit, including convicted criminals John Larson and David Amir Makov and their offshore companies, with trial likely to be scheduled for sometime next year.

Pfaff pleaded guilty to criminal charges in federal court in New York last month in a case called *U.S. v. Pfaff* that focused on his activities as a director of UMDA during a period that ended in 2002. Earlier this year, Pfaff was sentenced to 97 months in federal prison and fined $3 million for his role in defrauding the United States through the creation of fraudulent tax shelters in *U.S. v Stein.* CNMI Gov. Ben Fitial issued an Executive Order Proclamation on Oct. 14, 2009 expressing the gratitude of the people of the CNMI to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District for its efforts in obtaining a conviction in *U.S. v Stein* and a guilty plea *in U.S. v. Pfaff*.

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan and has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, shipping, and resort properties. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. In December 2007 UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of a 313-room luxury hotel in Saipan, now called Palms Resort Saipan. ***(UMDA)***

DONNA MONTON

Students rehearse for their roles in *Stage Door.*

The Thespian Students of Saipan is presenting *Stage Door*, an old play by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber. A comedy set in the 1930s, it dramatizes the lives of ingénue actresses in New York City.

Interestingly enough, these Saipan students are on the wave of a crest of revivals of George S. Kaufman works. Theatergoers to Broadway itself are seeing one of these plays, *The Royal Family*, presented at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre this month, October 2009. Another one of Kaufman's plays, *Once in a Lifetime*, written with Moss Hart, is on stage this month in Los Angeles. Saipan students are presenting a retro play that is totally in vogue!

Both the New York play (*The Royal Family*) and the Saipan play (*Stage Door*) are part of a three-comedy series that Kaufman & Ferber wrote involving high society in a time of a crumbling economy and fiscal gloom. Both revolve around the theater itself and the actors and actresses whose livelihoods depend on it.

Ann Angeles, who has a leading role, said that her philosophy for preparing has been "to feel the characters and memorize lines!" She's determined to be serious about the play, which is the right way to play comedy! Director Dowen Jocson has a more practical attitude. "As long as the actors act and we direct them, there will always be a show," she says.

And a "show" is theater lingo for something worth seeing.

The play is a cooperative effort among students from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Saipan International School, who make up the cast. A three-student directing team (Dowen Jocson, Judy Tiples, and Christian Cruz) has been coordinating the large cast of students, aided by their stage manager, Riya Nathrani. A design team, including Donna Herrera, Donna Montan, Rochelle Dimapilis, and Rozette Bunao, has worked on marketing, posters, tickets, costumes and set. Harold Easton is the Thespian Chapter director, and teacher/adviser for the production. Easton said, "I have had an easy time, because students did all the work."

The play will be staged at PIC's Charley's Cabaret on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 7pm. Tickets are $7 for adults and $5 for students and may be obtained in advance from any cast member or at the door. ***(PR)***

FOR SENATOR 2009
-1 QUITUGUA, JUSTO SONGAO

My dear people of the Third Senatorial District,

My three terms as your legislator for Precinct 4 in the 14th, 15th, and 16th Legislatures have been most challenging and fulfilling. I know that I have served you well and have had you first and foremost in my dealings and negotiations as a legislator. When I first ran for office I expected to be of service at all times and, much to my pleasure, I have not been disappointed.

Faced with many issues and challenges greatly impacting our islands, I believe that I would be of most service and assistance by shifting my precinct allegiance to the Third Senatorial District and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as a whole. For this reason, I have decided to run for the Senate in the upcoming election, November 07, 2009.

As your Senator, I shall focus on global and CNMI matters that will bring about integrity, accountability, stabilization, sustainability, and pride to our Commonwealth. I will be vigilant in my quest for a trustworthy and workable entity, a Commonwealth to be proud of. I also vow to maintain my focus on education, youth, health, and economic issues. I will continue to support and cooperate with the Executive Branch, my fellow legislators, and the Office of the Washington Delegate to attain these common goals and aspirations for the betterment of our CNMI.

I have taken the liberty of including my academic achievements, work experiences, and achievements in Congress to help you with your voting decision. For more information on my platform, you may pick-up a copy at the Democratic Party Headquarters. Given your support, I pledge to work even harder for our Commonwealth.

To my Precinct 4 communities, thank you for your confidence in me. It has been a pleasure serving you and I ask for your continued support.

In humble gratitude,

/s/ Representative Justo S. Quitugua

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND WORK EXPERIENCES

Education

- Masters Degree in Education, UH at Manoa
- BA in Education, UOG
- Community College of Micronesia (CCM), Ponhpei
- Hopwood High School, Saipan

Experience

- House of Representatives (2004-2009): 16th Legislature – Minority Member; 15th Legislature – Vice Speaker; 14th Legislature – Education Committee Chair
- Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) (2004-2009): 16th SNILD – Floor Leader; 15th SNILD – Ways & Means Committee Chair; 14th SNILD – Member
- Independent Consulting Services (1995-2003)
- Legislative Consultant to Rep. David M. Apatang, 11th Legislature; to Rep. Maria "Malua" Peter, 10th Legislature; to Senator Eusebio A. Hocog, 9th Legislature
- Delegate to the 3rd CNMI Constitutional Convention (1995)
- Deputy Commissioner for Administration, Public School System (1990-1994 - retired)
- Deputy Commissioner of Curriculum & Instruction, Public School System (1983-1989)
- Language Arts & Mathematics Consultant, Guam Dept. of Education (1980-1983)
- University of Guam Continuing Education Adjunct Instructor, Upper Education Courses (1985-1989)
- Classroom Teacher: Marianas High, Hopwood Jr. High, Oleai Elem., San Vicente Elem., W.S. Reyes Elem., Garapan Elem., San Roque Elem (1969-1980)
- Adult Basic Education Instructor (1974 - PT)
- Dr. Torres Hospital, Senior Clerk (summer 1969)
- Dr. Torres Hospital, Summer Trainee, (summer 1968)

OTHER LAWS AUTHORED

- ✔ PL 16-46 - Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008
- ✔ PL 15-116 - Allows government employees to apply sick leave to attend to family illness
- ✔ PL 15-105 - Health Care Professional Licensing Act of 2007
- ✔ PL 15-102 - Authorizes the Commonwealth Election Commission to use the funds appropriated under PL 15-73 and SLL 15-27 for operation
- ✔ PL 15-101 - Installs a monument at Grotto in honor of the late Vicente M. Concepcion
- ✔ PL 15-100 - Establishes financial standards & obligations for adults serving as guardians for minor children
- ✔ PL 15-99 - Allows funds deposited in the Special Disability Fund to be invested in the U.S. Fixed Income Securities as well as Unrated Securities in the U.S. Treasury & U.S. government agencies & other publicly Traded securities for greater rate of returns
- ✔ PL 15-98 - Authorizes NMIRF Members with 15 years of actual service to withdraw their contributions upon separation from government employment
- ✔ PL 15-86 - Establishes uniform perdiem policies for government travel & to prohibit the purchase of first class, business class, or other premium airline tickets by the Commonwealth Government
- ✔ PL 15-85 - Clarify the applicability of the Registered Loan Act of 2000
- ✔ PL 15-75 - Require the Scholarship Office & government agencies issuing scholarships to provide scholarship listing to government agencies & business sectors for employment purposes
- ✔ PL 15-72 – Accountability of fixed assets & capitol goods purchased by the Legislative Branch
- ✔ PL 15-69 – Authorize the taking of caregiver's own sick leave to attend to immediate family illness
- ✔ PL 15-59 – Criminalize marriage fraud
- ✔ PL 15-57 - Limit accrual of annual leave lump sum per calendar year
- ✔ PL 15-56 - Clarify the intend of Section 3 of PL 15-8
- ✔ PL 15-52 - Prohibit political campaign within 300 feet at polling places on election day
- ✔ PL 15-48 - Repeal MIHA/MPLT moratorium & deposit interest earned in the General Fund
- ✔ PL 15-39 - Allow members of the Youth Congress to continue the remaining of the term
- ✔ PL 15-30 - Give excise tax exemption to business on renewable energy products
- ✔ PL 15-11 – Appropriation authority shall be in a bill form
- ✔ PL 15-08 – Require poker license fees be paid in full
- ✔ PL 15-07 – Recognize political party rights on the ballot
- ✔ PL 15-06 - Disclosure of contributor's name on the Campaign Statement of Account with a contribution of $500 or more
- ✔ SLL 15-30 - Name unnamed road in Navy Hill to "Basilio Ln"
- ✔ SLL 15-07 - Name the CHC Dialysis Center as "Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Dialysis Center"; Unnamed road in Capitol Hill as "Norita Ln"

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE/RESOUTION/HOUSE RESOLUTION AUTHORED AND DULY ADOPTED/RATIFIED

- ✦ 16th Legislature (95)
- ✦ 15th Legislature (170)
- ✦ 14th Legislature (13)

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT/IMPROVEMENT IN PRECINCT 4 (2004 through 2009)

- ★ Secondary Road & Drainage Improvements: road paving & drainage, anti-skid applications; speed bumps
- ★ Construct Grotto Lookout
- ★ Construct Monument in memory of Vicente M. Concepcion, Grotto
- ★ Connect G.T. Camacho Elementary toilet facilities to CUC sewer line
- ★ Construct little league baseball field and other improvements at Capital Hill Park
- ★ Pave Tanapag Elementary and Headstart parking areas
- ★ Remove old military oil tanks in Tanapag
- ★ Install guard rails at As Matuis
- ★ Install night reflectors on bridge walls
- ★ Basketball courts rehabilitations
- ★ Power extension at upper As Matuis
- ★ Install window shutters at schools and government buildings
- ★ Repair bridge at Kagman I
- ★ Repair of covert washout at Paupau beach
- ★ Renovate Paupau beach pavilions
- ★ Install traffic lights at Lower Base
- ★ Construct Veterans Cemetery
- ★ Repairs of bus shelter, Kagman 1
- ★ Construct school bus shelter, As Teo, Tanapag

OTHER ACTIVITIES/SUPPORT/CONTRIBUTION

- ■ Daily village cleanup/beautification in Precinct 4
- ■ Support schools, agencies, and community activities
- ■ Donated 10% of salaries to the government (September 2006 thru January 2007)
- ■ Legislative salary goes to the CNMI Scholarship Office for student assistance

"Works Hard for YOU"

Thank you for your support!

Please exercise your right to vote on November 7, 2009.

Pacific Judicial Council Conference begins

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan called to order Monday morning the Pacific Judicial Council, composed of the judiciaries of the CNMI, Guam, the Republic of Palau, American Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The PJC is having its 2009 Biennial Conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Oct. 25–29.

The first day's general session included a presentation by lawyer Richard Zorza, a national figure on the topic of self-represented litigants and coordinator of the Self-represented Litigation Network. His speech was titled, "The Challenges of Engagement and Neutrality for Judges and Courts."

In the afternoon an interactive discussion was similarly focused on handling *pro se* (self-represented) litigation in the courtroom with emphasis on proven strategies. Participating panelists included judges Kenneth Govendo, Ramona Manglona, E. Remengesau-Rudimch, Kathleen Sali, Anita Sukola, and Dennis Yamase, with Richard Zorza presiding.

The Council also held an executive board member election. Demapan was again elected president of the Pacific Judicial Counsel. Chief Justice Camillo Noket from Chuuk was elected vice president. Chief Justice F. Michael Kruse from American Samoa and Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood were elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

Today, Yap State Supreme Court Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw will be the Master of Ceremonies. The day begins with Judge Michael Keasler's address, titled "Judicial Ethics." Keasler is a judge on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and a former faculty member of the National Judicial College.

The luncheon, beginning at 11:45am in the Bund Restaurant, is open to the CNMI Bar Association, which hosted a welcoming reception and dinner in the Fiesta Hotel's Hibiscus Hall Sunday evening with music by Southern High School's Manta Ray Band. Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert J. Torres is the invited speaker and his address is titled "Can We Have Competent, Ethical, and Courteous Lawyers in Court: A report on the Guam Bar initiative to establish an Inn of Court."

After lunch two sessions are open to the Bar members. In the first, Keasler and Torres will further address professional responsibility for attorneys, and in the second associate professor Kathleen Burch of the John Marshall Law School of Atlanta will present an update on constitutional law with emphasis on recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Tuesday's final session is limited to PJC members, and will center on evidence-based practice with sensitivity to culture and tradition. Mark Carey Group principal Mark Carey and Center for Effective Public Policy principal Madeline Carter will present "A Report on the Improvement of Guam's Justice System."

The Pacific Judicial Council's conference continues through Thursday, Oct. 29. ***(PR)***

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 501133, Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-4550~7 • Fax: (670) 664-4560

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grants includes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) and Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

The amounts available under each program are listed below less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI. The breakdown of these program funds are as follows:

I. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants

1. Title II Formula Grant: FY2008: $5,560.00. FY2009: $40,000.00
The OJJDP Title II Formula Grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program have four core-requirements. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

Note: *The Youth Advisory Council has planned for this year, to place priority funding towards needed programs such as diversion programs, alternatives to detention, and other programs catered towards dealing with juvenile status offenders. An evidenced based model programs guide has been developed by OJJDP for the reference of interested sub-grant applicants. It is available at* http://www2.dsgonline.com/mpg/. *Please review it for your programs as OJJDP is requiring the implementation of more evidence based programs.*

2. Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2009: $7,953.00.
Established in the 1992 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974,†the Title V Community Prevention Grants Program is a Federal grants program that†funds collaborative, community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program†integrates six fundamental principles: (comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective) to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. It†provides funding and a†framework to enable communities to†develop and implement comprehensive 3-year†prevention plans that†are designed to reduce risk factors associated with†delinquency and decrease†juvenile problem behavior.

3. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2009 $72,000.00
The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 3796ee et esq). As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile offender, accountability means an assurance of facing individualized consequences through which he or she is made aware of and held responsible for the loss, damage, or injury that the victim experiences. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-qualified agencies-programs mentioned below, *must* submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, which includes an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

Under this grant, these agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***DPS-JPU: $12,000.00; DYS-JDU: $12,000.00; DYS-JPU: $12,000.00; PDO-Juv.: $12,000.00; OAG-Juv.: $12,000.00; FCD-Pre-Trial: $12,000.00.***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2009 $312,000.00
The OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant Program supports and enhances efforts by states and local jurisdictions to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. (Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.)

Pre-qualified agencies-programs mentioned below, *must* submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, which includes an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

Under this grant, these agencies are allotted the following amounts: ***Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00; Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00; Commerce ABTC $50,000.00.*** The following amounts are available to other interested and qualified applicants that will conduct EUDL programs under these purpose areas: ***EUDL Innovative Programs: $100,000.00; EUDL Public Advertising: $12,000.00.***

II. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Program: FY2009 $279,821.00
As one of five bureaus within the Office of Justice Programs, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) was established by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. The VOCA Assistance Program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant process consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by CJPA. The Youth Advisory Council and the Supervisory Council are expected to meet early December 2009. Meeting announcements will be forthcoming.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, 2009.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill.

For more information please contact CJPA at 664-4550 or you may contact the individual program manager at CJPA at 664-4551 Vincent Camacho (OJJDP) and 664-4556 John Cruz (VOCA) or stop by our office on Capitol Hill (House #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp. Please indicate and specify which grant program you are applying for on the application. Should you have any question or concerns, you may call or email Mr. Jerome Ierome, the CJPA Executive Director, at jerome.ierome@cjpagov.mp

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Farmers' meeting to elect SNISWCD administrators

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will conduct a meeting to elect District Board Administrators on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. In accordance with Public Law 4-44 that established the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the CNMI, the election term is for Fiscal Year 2009-2012.

The event will be conducted by Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz and will be from 6pm to 7pm at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. We encourage all farmers and rancher to please attend this very important meeting.

Farmers and ranchers who would like to know more about this meeting can contact the local Saipan and Northern Islands SWCD office at 234-6180 and ask for Diana Gabaldo. ***(PR)***

Mary and Saints exhibit ongoing

The San Antonio Parish is inviting the people of Saipan to come and see the Mary and Saints Exhibit presently ongoing at the Parish Social Hall. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 235-4515. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

■ Oct. 27, 7pm-8pm: Guests are former Covenant negotiator and 1st CNMI House Speaker Oscar C. Rasa, John S. DelRosario Jr., and NMI Descent for Self Government and Indigenous Rights president Dolores M. Aldan. Topic will be self-government and indigenous rights.

■ Oct. 28, 7pm-8pm: Guests are MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, Fish & Wildlife director Sylvan Igisomar, and acting DPH Secretary Pete Untalan to talk about their agency operations and achievements.

■ Oct. 28 – 8pm-9pm: Guests is Roman C. Cepeda, independent candidate for Saipan mayor, to talk about his plans and platform. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 27, 1999

'Postpone action on takeover bill'
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday urged U.S. lawmakers to hold off action on legislation extending federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas as he expressed disappointment over its approval by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee despite CNMI's protests. But he remains optimistic that other members of Congress will weigh the full impact of the proposal to the island's economy. "Hopefully, I'd like to see that they would take it very seriously and try to give us the opportunity to delay implementing the INA," Tenorio told reporters in an interview.

Ombusdman may have overstepped authority
Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown may have overstepped her authority when she asked the Department of Labor and Immigration to reconsider its action against a nonresident who was found working with expired entry permit, according to officials. Brown sent a letter to Assistant Attorney General Robert Goldberg appealing DOLI's decision to file a civil case against Vivian D.J. Maglalang on behalf of the Filipino worker in connection with her unauthorized "training" at the Intermodal Cargo Forwarders. But sources from the administration claimed the parent company of Intermodal, Ambyth Shipping Micronesia, Inc., employs Mark Blackburn as agent, whom they said is "related" to Brown.

Oct. 27, 2000

Students march against violence
Hopwood Junior High School students aired their message loud and clear yesterday when they took to the streets of San Antonio to seek an end to the escalating violence in the community. Twelve-year-old Mary Lou Gariguez, a member of the HJHS marching band, said playing her musical instrument as the hour-long parade made its way through the San Antonio Village was her way of expressing opposition to mounting violence directed at children. "Violence should stop. To all the people, please let's stop child abuse. We should instill discipline in children but first and foremost, let's love the them," said Ms. Gariguez.

Visitor arrivals slightly up in 1st half
Re-entry of Korean travelers to the Northern Marianas pushed overall visitor arrival figures in the first half of the year by three percent to 257,800 from last year's average of 250,900 tourists, government records disclosed. A report on economic indicators compiled by the commerce department's Central Statistics Division also revealed a modest drop in the arrival of Japanese tourists to Saipan during the first semester of the calendar year 2000. The Quarterly Economic Review, which quotes figures submitted by the Marianas Visitors Authority, indicated a 0.5 percent decline in the number of visitors from the CNMI's largest tourism market to 190,700 from 191,750 in 1999.

Oct. 27, 2002

Govt in for tougher times ahead
Gripped with a cash flow shortage primarily weighed down by the huge deficit that was a carry over from the previous year, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente assured Friday that the government continues to devise ways to recover from the pressing financial difficulty. He said the administration intends to remain afloat by keeping with cost-saving measures within the government and looking at other means to raise revenues. Warning of probably tougher times in the next few months, Benavente appealed to other government agencies to bear with the sacrifices that have to be made.

Heinz appeals for approval of HB 13-126
House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider appealed to the administration to give House Bill 13-126 a chance, following efforts by the Executive Branch to resolve issues surrounding Public Law 13-1, or the measure defining government positions exempt from civil service. HB 13-126, legislation crafted to address loopholes in PL 13-1, has passed both the House and the Senate without amendments. The administration, however, has yet to act on the measure. "As a matter of appeal to the administration, [it would be fitting] to sign it [HB 13-126] into law and see what are its detailed impediments, so that we can correct those. But until it's signed into law and have it applied, and we see what obstacles HB 13-26 generates, we can only argue on the basis of theoretical application of 126," the Speaker said Friday.

Workshops on livestock healthcare, management

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service will be hosting two series of workshops, one focused on Alternative Herbal Medicine for Livestock Healthcare in the Western Pacific and the other on the Extension Outreach and Assistance in Improved Pasture and Livestock Management Practices. Local animal healthcare professionals, agriculture extension personnel, and local farmers and ranchers are encouraged to attend.

The Alternative Herbal Medicine for Livestock Healthcare in the Western Pacific workshops will cover a variety of topics, including the current CNMI animal health status, and alternative resources for feed processing. Funding for these workshops is provided by the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Grant.

NMC-CREES will also lead the Extension Outreach and Assistance in Improved Pasture and Livestock Management Practices workshops with experts from the University of Hawaii and the University of the Virgin Islands. Funds for these workshops are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The workshops will take place in November on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Each workshop will consist of lectures, demonstrations, field days, and consultations lead by NMC-CREES staff members and other experts from various organizations.

There is no fee to attend a workshop, but seating is limited.

The Alternative Herbal Medicine for Livestock Healthcare in the Western Pacific workshops will be conducted on the following dates:

- Nov. 2-3, 9am – 4pm, NMC-Rota Instructional Site
- Nov. 24-25, 9am – 4pm, Saipan World Resort Conference Room
- Nov. 30, 9am – 4pm, NMC-Tinian Instructional Site

The Extension Outreach and Assistance in Improved Pasture and Livestock Management Practices workshops will be conducted on the following dates:

- Nov. 7-19, 9am – 4pm, NMC-Tinian Instructional Site
- Nov. 11-13, 9am – 4pm, NMC-Rota Instructional Site

To register, contact Selina Mesa on Saipan at 234-5498 ext. 1708 or selinam@nmcnet.edu or Dr. Allan Sabaldica on Tinian at 433-2576 or allans@nmcnet.edu. Interested individuals are encouraged to register at least a week before the workshops. ***(NMC)***

The Highest Imperative

The toughest challenge we face today is the deterioration of our economy and the absence of a coordinated response to this decline.

Borrowing a phrase from former President Clinton, "It's the economy, stupid!", this statement underscores the importance of rebuilding the CNMI's economy which has been cut in half with the closure of the garment factories and a sharp cut-back in airline routes to our islands. Getting the airlines to come back is critical to achieve a resurgence of tourism. We have much to do in this area.

A diverse economy is essential to our long term well-being in the CNMI, but tourism has until recently been the mainstay of our economy. Our destination needs to be reinvented; upgrades of the Garapan District area must continue. Museums, historic, recreation and scenic sights should be developed-indicated with appropriate signage and connected by pathways, roads and trails, pocket parks, beach parks for the disabled, conservation areas, hiking trails, including underwater parks- in a green belt that is easy to identify and enjoy on foot, by bicycle, bus or car.

Education, medicine, telecommunications, and agriculture provide opportunities for business expansion as well. There is much to be done and little time to waste.

On November 7, 2009
Please Vote
#1
HOFSCHNEIDER, Heinz Sablan
PALACIOS, Arnold Indalecio

www.heinzarnold2009.com
Please Vote Republican
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider - Palacios

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 257

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Vaccine frustration

As vaccination efforts go, the one underway for the H1N1 virus (aka swine flu) has not gone smoothly. Lower-than-expected vaccine yields have reduced the number of doses available, and this has led to the cancellation or scaling back of vaccination clinics across the country. After eight years of talk about preparing for either biological attacks or life-threatening pandemic influenza, the performance is worse than disappointing.

Some of the pandemic planning has worked. When swine flu burst onto the scene in April, the government had contracts in place with five vaccine manufacturers that allowed it to immediately start the lengthy process of preparing a vaccine. The government runs 35 chicken farms for the sole purpose of producing eggs to be used in vaccine production. But in trying to get vaccine to people who want and need it, the process has run off the rails. Because swine flu vaccine yields did not meet manufacturers' initial estimates, filling the orders of states and localities has been pushed back by at least two weeks. There's been considerable confusion about availability. Given the spread of the illness now, the promise that all who want the vaccine will eventually be able to get it is cold comfort.

Meanwhile, there have been problems in distributing the seasonal flu vaccine as well. Hospitals, clinics and other venues have been scrambling to make do with what they have, if they have any doses at all.

Congress passed laws to prepare the nation for pandemics and possible biological attacks in the aftermath of the al-Qaida and anthrax attacks of 2001. Lack of progress became apparent during the planning for avian flu in 2005. There was plenty of talk then about the need to move away from egg-based vaccine production in favor of more flexible cell-based technology. Doing so would cut production time almost in half from between 20 and 23 weeks to between 12 and 14 weeks and would result in larger amounts of vaccine per lot. But the first facility to employ cell-based technology, which comes online next month, isn't expected to be able to manufacture U.S.-licensed flu vaccine until 2011. This points up two other issues. That facility is part of a five-year, $5.6 billion pandemic preparedness plan at the Department of Health and Human Services. This is only the third year. And of the five vaccine manufacturers with federal contracts we mentioned earlier, only one is on U.S. soil.

Swine flu is spreading rapidly and overwhelming clinics and hospitals, but it is still considered relatively mild. The best way to protect yourself and others remains washing your hands or using hand sanitizer, covering your cough or sneeze, and staying home from work or school if you or your children feel sick. But had the H1N1 virus mutated into something more virulent over the summer, the nation's inadequate infrastructure and inability to respond efficiently would have been even more consequential. In some ways, the federal government caught a lucky break with H1N1. But when it comes to the public's health, depending on luck isn't good enough.

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We can afford to save the planet

By EBAN GOODSTEIN, FRANK ACKERMAN, KRISTEN SHEERAN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Here is the good news on the climate front: The Europeans have ratcheted down their emissions targets, the Chinese are getting serious about solar power and energy efficiency, and Washington is lumbering toward a carbon cap.

These are steps toward the long-held goal: cutting global warming pollution 80 percent by 2050. Such cuts would stabilize the thickness of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide blanket surrounding the planet at 450 parts per million (ppm) and, we've been told, ensure that the global average temperature increase would not exceed 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from 1990 levels.

The bad news? Turns out that 450 ppm is so 2005.

In the past four years, climate scientists, led by NASA's James Hansen, have dramatically altered the goal. To avoid the collapse of the continental ice-sheets and a dangerous rise in sea levels, many scientists are now saying we have to get down to 350 ppm, and quickly.

This means what was already a heroic (and to many, impossible) target has become mind-boggling. Reaching 350 ppm would require a 97 percent reduction in emissions, entailing a complete conversion to renewable energy systems by mid-century, with the world economy virtually free of carbon emissions. Such a goal is far more demanding than any of the leading policy proposals under discussion.

Game over?

No. It's just time to rethink what is possible.

Some have argued that the worrisome climate news is that the cost of preventing climate change is too high. In fact, estimates of the cost of acting to mitigate warming have remained relatively stable, while estimates of the likely cost of inaction are becoming unbearable. Whether the goal is 450 or 350 parts per million, this is still a problem we can afford to solve. Stopping global warming remains fundamentally a problem of political will.

We are among the eight authors of a recent report for Economics for Equity and the Environment Network, an affiliate of the nonprofit Ecotrust, that surveyed numerous economic studies on the cost of meeting the 350 ppm goal. We found that quicker action aimed at more ambitious targets makes good economic sense.

Our report shows that a comprehensive global strategy is well within the range of what most nations are willing to pay to avoid far greater damages from climate change down the line. With investments of roughly 1 to 3 percent of global gross domestic product, or $600 billion to $1.8 trillion, we could rapidly transition from oil and coal to renewables and clean energy sources, including wind and solar, and replenish global forests, which would help trap billions of tons of carbon. These efforts would create jobs and stabilize the climate in the process. Fluctuations or changes in some factors, such as the price of oil, could mean these investments might actually save us money.

To some, the price of 1 to 3 percent of global economic output may seem too high. But examine the amount in context. Suppose, for instance, that the cost of climate protection turns out to be 2.5 percent of global GDP. In an economy like that of the United States that is, say, growing at a roughly 2.5 percent annual rate, spending 2.5 percent of its GDP on climate protection each year would be equivalent to skipping one year's growth and then resuming. Put another way, Americans in 2050 would have to wait one additional year, until 2051, to be as rich as they would have been had they not been investing in the transition to clean energy.

Consider another comparison: Military spending is greater than 4 percent of GDP in both the United States and China. Because of concerns about potential future dangers, both countries are already diverting from annual consumption more than the high-end estimates of what it would take to stop global warming.

Business lobbies have argued that even the moderate reductions called for in recent U.S. climate and energy legislation would cripple the economy. Yet academic research and findings by the Congressional Budget Office and the Environmental Protection Agency show that recent U.S. legislative proposals would have very little if any negative impact on the U.S. economy. Our report surveys the economic studies of the costs of achieving the far more ambitious target of 350 ppm and finds only estimates of moderate net global costs.

The pace of our switch to clean energy will determine whether we hit a concentration target (whatever it may be) or fail to do so. Certainly, failure to slow and stop warming will impose high costs on future generations. The world has begun taking important initial steps toward addressing the climate crisis, with increasingly widespread acceptance. To avoid dangerous warming or the effects it would cause will require us to do better than 450 ppm. Luckily, the data suggest that we can, indeed, afford to do better. What we cannot afford is too little climate policy, too late.

Eban Goodstein is an economist and a professor at Bard College. Frank Ackerman, an economist at the Stockholm Environment Institute and Tufts University, is lead author of the recent report. Kristen Sheeran is executive director of the Economics for Equity and the Environment Network, a nationwide group of economists focused on environmental policy.

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Letters to the Editor

CUC's Muña spins an issue to avoid the issue—again

On Friday, CUC executive director Tony Muña stated that the class action lawsuit filed over CUC's rates during 2006 would in no way benefit any of CUC's customers because CUC would be forced to raise its rates to cover the cost of the suit and subsequent refunds. He went on to defend CUC's rates saying that the Supreme Court gave no opinion on the "reasonableness" of the rates and "we did not overcharge or over collect from our customers" based on the new rates.

These statements ignore the premise of the court ruling and attempt to cajole the public into thinking the current lawsuit will cost everyone more money if CUC loses. CUC, as with any other agency of the government (autonomous or not), must exercise due diligence and due process when enacting new rules, regulations or policies. And this is what the court ruled on: CUC's "new" rate commencing in July 2006 was the result of an illegal executive order. It was not until over two months later that a duly authorized and promulgated legislative action (due process) made a new rate for CUC legal. It was totally irrelevant whether or not CUC was losing money.

But the Governor's method proved illegal—and the result was an overcharge to CUC customers until a legal rate became effective three months later. CUC continues to insist that it was "mandated" to collect sufficient funds through appropriate rates to cover its costs of operation, but ignores the fact that the mandate did not become legally enforceable until authorized by appropriate legislative action. It does not matter how Mr. Muña spins this one—customers were overcharged from July 22 to Oct. 23, 2006.

But there is a fly in the ointment: Mr. Muña is correct about CUC's current inability to manage liability from this lawsuit. CUC derives its only funding from the rates it charges customers unless a legislative "bailout" or some other windfall creates additional funding. The worm in the ointment (in addition to the fly) is that whether the funding comes from rates charged or from the Legislature, its ultimate source is us, the people, all of us.

CUC must (since Oct. 24, 2006) recover operational costs from rates and rates should not exceed costs by more than a reasonable profit margin for the producer. But in this case, the producer is the government—and, therefore, not entitled to a profit; so "rate" must approximate "cost" and the likely results of this lawsuit are being considered by CUC as an additional new "cost." Ugh! Now that's a problem!

A rate "offset" could cause CUC's revenue to fall below cost; a customer "refund" will incur additional cost; a legislative bailout will simply shift the direct cost from CUC's ratepayers to central government taxpayers (who happen to be one and the same) and probably lead to a shortfall in some other program(s) from which it would have to be taken. So what kind of "creativeness" could CUC use to get that overcharge returned to customers without raising rates? An overcharge now estimated at $8.7 million.

This scenario is happening with utility companies across the U.S. and around the world. Some of them have large reserves from which to pay court-ordered refunds while others are seeking more creative methods. The current director of CUC, Mr. Muña, appears to be insisting on a narrow-sighted, one-legged, don't-bother-me-with-work, templated, cookie-cutter policy of "raise the rates" to cover an inflated (by out-of-date methodology) cost of doing business. The term for this affliction is "ocular myopathy." Symptomology includes persistent use of the word "no," feverish denial of alternate pathways and frequent convulsive irrational statements. It is my hope that other recently acquired managers at CUC and the CPUC will have the insight to determine that there are better ways. For instance:

1) Streamline and improve administrative functions and procedures. Administration typically comprises about 2 per cent of operational costs. CUC is using antiquated methods of the 1970s. Updated computerization, paperless billing via Internet, smart meters, pre-paid power, outsourcing and other procedural improvements have been shown to cut this cost to around 1 percent in many other jurisdictions. Such a reduction in administrative costs could save CUC over $100,000 a month in this area alone.

2) Control revenue and cost "leakage." Inefficient operational procedures and improper inventory control cause lost time and duplication of effort. Streamline and automate these procedures. A major fault of CUC lies in its inability to go after delinquent accounts. In many cases this is due to negligent tracking of accounts. Computerize the process and go after delinquents. Minimize "power theft" through a system of mandatory inspections and monitoring line meters. Initiate rate structures based on "peak" and "off-peak" usage, both diurnal and seasonal to help even out uneven loads.

3) Increase revenue by adding customers. Now that CUC claims to have a reserve of 15 MW, new customers can and should be added to the grid, especially as CUC continues to increase its reserve. It is currently estimated that nearly 30 percent of Saipan operates off the CUC grid on its own power. Many of these customers do not want to operate on their own. Bring selected customers onto the grid to increase revenue and use a portion of the excess power capacity.

4) Actively promote and facilitate *small* private user alternative power enhancement systems. Stop dilly-dallying around with regulations that have been idled in the AG tombs for two years or more. Get workable templates from other successful utilities and immediately implement them while there are still customer incentives available to promote use of small private systems such as solar and wind. These systems will supplement CUC's own power (net-metering), lead to a reduction in "stress" on CUC and result in even more power reserve to use for even more new customers.

5) Seek privatization of *parts* of the CUC system. You don't have to privatize all at once. Go after the part that is hurting the most first. In the case of Saipan, that could be the distribution system. A normal system has 3 to 4 percent "line loss" built in that cannot be avoided. CUC's line loss is currently estimated at between 20 and 25 percent. That means CUC is tasked to produce a *lot* more power than is actually reaching customers—and that costs more. Private operators usually cost more money than municipal operators, but in this case, reducing those exorbitant line losses to a more normal level will more than offset the cost, improve overall plant efficiency, reduce CUC's outlay, reduce service interruptions on outdated and faulty line equipment and increase customer satisfaction and safety. Administrative functions such as meter reading and billing could also be privatized separately.

6) Prioritize more efficient fuel handling and transmission from the ship to the engines. Up to a full percent or more of fuel is currently being "lost" in antiquated and circuitous transmission and storage facilities through evaporation, failed environmental controls and "leakage." Get ARRA money for this step.

7) Stop subsidizing water operations from power revenue. Divide the system and set up water and wastewater as separate entities. There are very few, if any, modern day utility systems so combined as this one. Each system must stand on its own merits, and in such jurisdictions, overall costs are reduced, systems are more efficient and community planning and service is enhanced. At the same time, outsource administrative functions such as billing and payroll.

8) Customers are not necessarily due a one-time refund windfall. Most utilities are finding they must spread the refunds over a period of time, many for more than five years. In CUC's case, I believe the refund could be fully completed in two years or less.

Through implementation of the above eight measures (perhaps other readers can suggest even more or better ways), some immediately, some over time, CUC should be able to cut costs by as much as $400,000 a month or more. This amounts to only about a *2 percent* cost reduction (of CUC's $20 million monthly cost) and should be easily attainable while maintaining the current rate structure.

By maintaining the same rate structure and reducing cost by a mere 2 percent, the resultant difference could be refunded to customers via a direct monthly equivalent cash reduction on their bill while still retaining enough revenue to cover costs. After two years, and as more and more cost reductions are in place and refunds are completed, rates can be lowered to reflect an accurate recovery for CUC, thus putting more money into citizen pockets and stimulating the economy—even a little.

If oil prices change, rates would follow anyway, but the difference between revenue and cost (each reflecting the new direct oil price) would still provide for continued billing reductions *and* an eventual rate reduction from whatever rate was in effect at the time.

Mr. Muña, instead of *only* trying to scare people with threatened rate increases as the unique choice, please try telling us what you intend to do to keep rates the same (or less if possible) while finding creative ways to lower costs, improve efficiency and service, and give us back the money ill-advised officials improperly took from us for three months in 2006. By voluntarily doing this, you could even avoid the high cost of a court battle that you probably will lose anyway and that money could also go toward refunds—and customer satisfaction. Anything less would seem to me to be anti-consumerism at its worst. Please.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Note: Encarta dictionary primary definition of "consumerism": The protection of the rights and interests of consumers, especially with regard to price, quality and safety.

Caveats

"Euphoria" means "a feeling of great happiness or well-being." It best describes the much needed victory of sorts won by the CNMI economy to welcome visitors from China communist Russia. But at what cost? Only 45 days after November 28, 2009. Not precisely what the local government, its delegate to Congress and a host of companies involved in our do-or-die tourism industry desired.

True, this ruling is the fruit of the "creative solution" so diligently pursued by Governor Fitial immediately after passage of U.S. Public Law 110-229. But what this victory did is merely to appease the letter of that law and us—for a mere 45 days. With caveats. What it does compel us to do is to pay close attention to the underlying motive, what comes after the 45 days limitation of that creative solution and what we're prepared to do thereafter.

By tagging this category of visitors under the term "parole," Department of Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano acquiesced to the crucial need of the Commonwealth to generate much needed revenue—but only in the short run and under stringent conditions: approval per individual is on a case-by-case bases, and entry is determined after passing a security watchlist and a 72 hours look-see prior to departure from point of origin. Upon exiting from the CNMI the visitor must comply with additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection controls system. As the term parole denotes, our visitor, held captive as the parolee, must behave or the parole is revoked and back to where he came from he goes. Is the parole designation then a guaranteed proposition of Chinese and Russian tourists flooding our streets in those 45 days? Don't bet your bottom dollar on it.

What is clear is Napolitano's goodness toward the CNMI has been fulfilled. Now what? After that 45 days compromise, there are no more compromises—homeland security is paramount: protect the newly arrived 40,000 plus military personnel and their dependents, and the 20,000 or more (foreign) workers projected to arrive on the islands trump economic considerations our islands hoped for.

And the federal footprint in the Commonwealth after Nov. 28? That footprint is going to evolve into a giant boot over the islands.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Educational evolution

Educational institutions should review their standards and practices to adjust to the constantly evolving needs of the new century. Technology, economic circumstances and new discovery of learning practices call for such adjustment. Craig H. Garrison's letter to the editor points out that the Carnegie standard of learning, namely the "seat time," is outdated and requires adjustment, not that it should be totally eliminated but simply supplemented by other approaches to provide for a variety of learning techniques. A century ago, distance learning was unheard of; telemedicine and teleconferences were also unheard of. Today one can get educated and get a college degree right in the comfort of one's home.

Our educational institutions should look at this new century with open minds so that adjustments can be made to address changes needed. When we educate our young, what are we producing and are we achieving that which we are intending to achieve? What values do we want to implant in our young that will contribute to the welfare or well-being of our community. It is my understanding that the purpose of education is to prepare our young to be useful citizens in whatever way or field chosen. The end result should be citizens that contribute to the welfare of society and not a liability to society. As society evolves, so do we.

I agree with Garrison, we should all get on board and welcome adjustments in all of our educational institutions.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲85	▼76
Palau	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

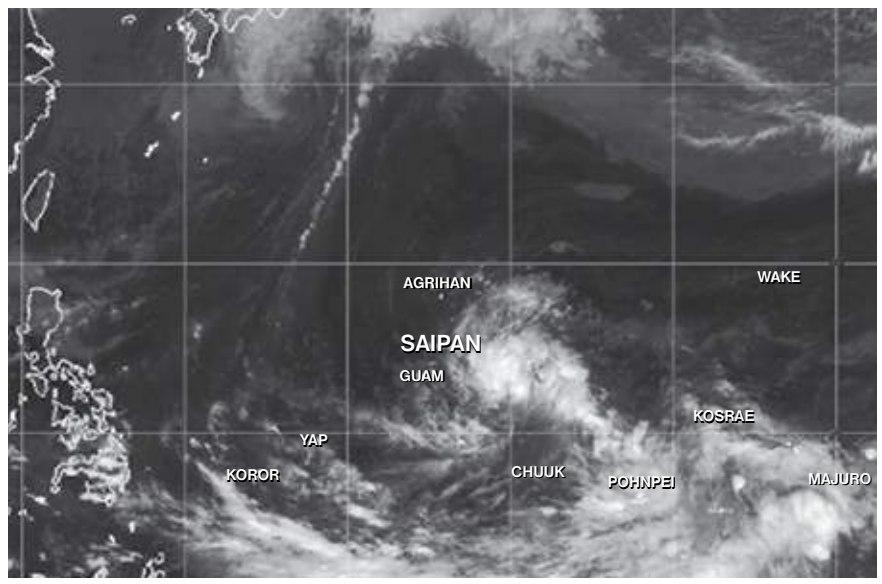
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲67	▼44
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼60
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲67	▼44
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼47
Osaka	Rain	▲71	▼52
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲72	▼55
Rome	Sunny	▲71	▼53
Salem	Cloudy	▲59	▼40
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲67	▼47
Tokyo	Rain	▲65	▼56
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼48

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
7:19 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
3:09 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:55 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 9N130E to tropical depression 23W north of Chuuk at 12N151E then southeastward to a circulation near Majuro at 7N170E then eastward to end near 7N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are in an area from 10N to 17N between 148E and 158E. For more detailed information on TD23W, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and JTWC under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Converging west winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau between the equator and 5N from 130E to 151E and across Pohnpei and Kosrae in an area from 9N159E to 5N169E to EQ166E to EQ163E to 7N156E back to 9N159E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers across the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 168E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:43 AM	
Tuesday	1:22 PM	12:24 AM
Wednesday	1:59 PM	1:12 AM
Thursday	2:34 PM	2:00 AM
Friday	3:10 PM	2:48 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 26, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Korean home shopping network warms up to NMI

NS Homeshopping cable station and tour company JAU-TOUR of Korea visited the Northern Mariana Islands last week to film a television commercial advertising travel packages to this tropical resort destination.

The one-hour commercial and interactive buying program will air on NS Home Shopping on Oct. 31 in a bid by JAU-TOUR to attract more visitors to these islands during the winter season.

"Today we had plenty of sunshine and it was pleasantly warm here as always. Only three short hours from Seoul and Tokyo, the Northern Marianas makes a great escape from the winter cold," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Based on previous large volume sales of travel packages on home shopping networks in Korea, it looks like demand from consumers makes this marketing strategy worth repeating."

The production team arrived early on Oct. 21 for two days of taping. The first day they were on the island of Tinian to feature the intriguing history and beautiful landscape of that quiet island. Stops included House of Taga, home to towering limestone monoliths called latte stones, which were the support structures for buildings built by ancient Chamorros. The natural beauty of the island was captured at Chulu and Taga Beaches and the picturesque Blow Hole. The crew also filmed while snorkeling and scuba diving in the warm ocean waters. The team stayed the night at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, which offers world-class casino gaming and accommodations.

On Oct. 22 the production team took a short ferry ride to cover some of the highlights on the island of Saipan. Top on the list was the award-winning, white sand islet of Managaha inside the Saipan lagoon. Numerous World War II and historic sites in northern Saipan were visited, including a Korean Peace Memorial. In the main tourist district of Garapan, American Memorial Park and the food and entertainment of the weekly Garapan Street Market were highlighted.

The production team stayed at Saipan World Resort before their departure on Oct. 23. The estimated ad exposure value is $40,000. ***(MVA)***

NEWS BRIEFS

Saipan chamber to elect new officers

On Nov. 4, during its general membership meeting, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be electing its officers and directors for the coming year.

The meeting at the Saipan Grand Hotel will also feature a speaker from the Department of Homeland Security.

Currently, all four Chamber positions are open. The following eligible individuals have accepted their nominations:

- Doug Brennan – President
- Jim Arenovski – Vice President
- Mike Johnson – Treasurer
- Kathryn Barry – Secretary

Officers serve one-year terms. Directors at large serve two-year terms.

This year, the terms of directors Jay Santos and Alex Sablan expire, so two positions are open. Alex Sablan, Vince Seman, and Frank Stewart have accepted their nominations for these positions.

Nominations of qualified individuals will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for public. ***(SCC)***

OIA awards $141K grant to Zoning

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Oct. 22, 2009, Assistant Secretary Anthony M. Babauta signed a grant in the amount of $141,062 for the Northern Mariana Islands Zoning Board Capacity Program for Fiscal Year 2010 as requested by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. The grant comes from the Operations and Maintenance Improvement Program.

The assistance for the CNMI Zoning Board is to improve management of land use and development in the CNMI which is critical to its economy and quality of life in their villages. A similar grant in 2007 and 2008 was used to complete the Saipan zoning laws. ***(PR)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB10-GOV-008

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **October 13, 2009.**

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **October 23, 2009** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked **"Lease of Warehouse", IFB10-GOV-008**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M., local time, on October 28, 2009** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-007

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The proposal package will be available on or after **October 13, 2009** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **October 23, 2009** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Construction Management/Contract Compliance", RFP10-GOV-007**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., October 28, 2009 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Island Snapshots

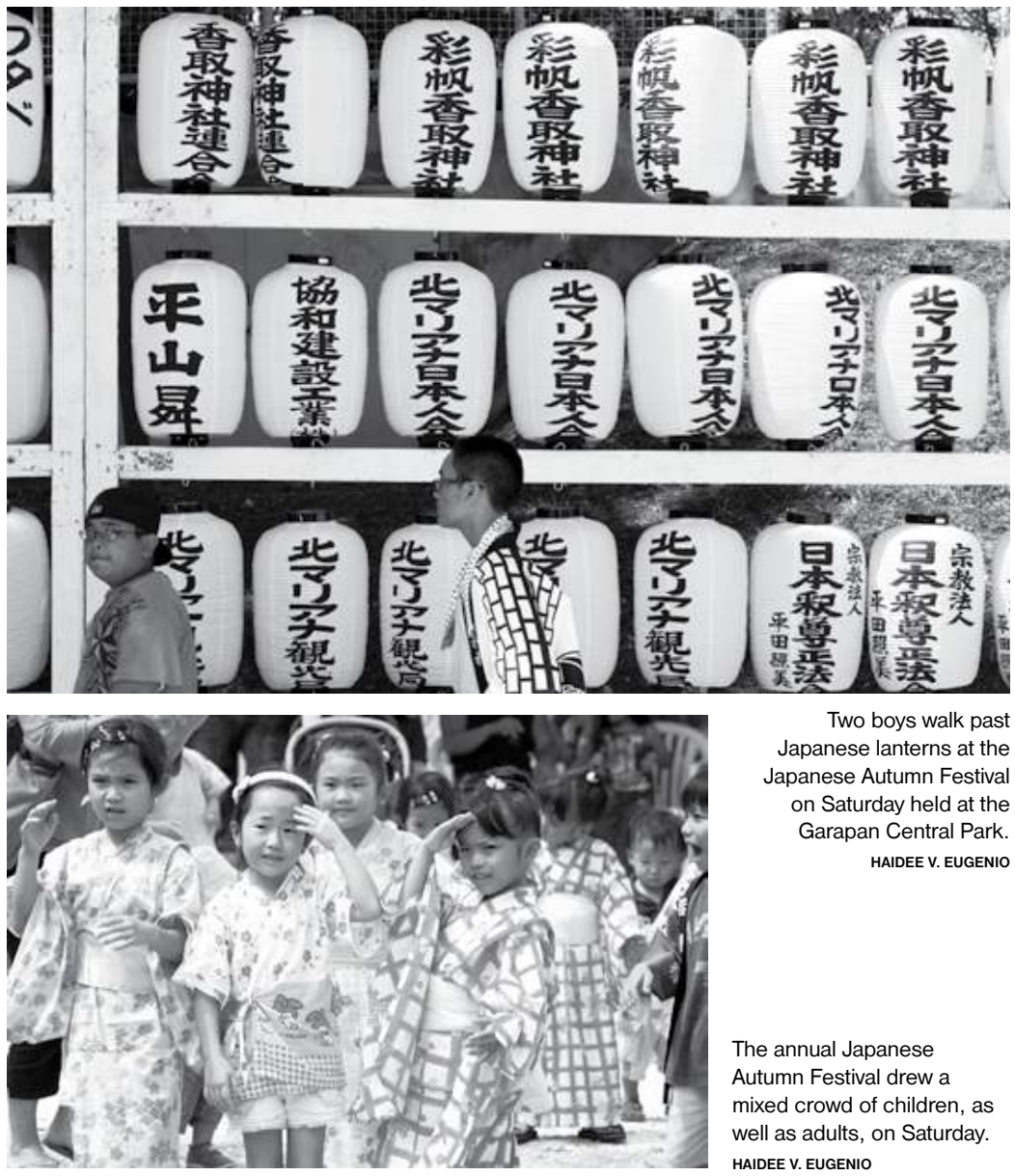
AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Ayako Matsumoto, vice president of Pacific Eagle Enterprises Inc., treats a big crowd to the beat of the drum during the Japanese Autumn Festival at the Garapan Central Park on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Children in traditional Japanese garb try to mimic dance moves at the Japanese Autumn Festival on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Two boys walk past Japanese lanterns at the Japanese Autumn Festival on Saturday held at the Garapan Central Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The annual Japanese Autumn Festival drew a mixed crowd of children, as well as adults, on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SAMOA FUNDRAISER

Members of the Cab Cultural Dance Group prepare for their next performance at the CNMI Tsunami Relief Drive for Samoa telethon and live entertainment on Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two men haul bags of donated clothes and other personal items for victims and survivors of the tsunamis that hit American Samoa and Samoa, during a telethon fundraising on Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base. The CNMI Tsunami Relief Drive for Samoa will be accepting cash and in-kind donations until Oct. 31.

WORLD PRIEST DAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marriage Encounter couples with M.E. presenting priests Fr. Ryan and Fr. Ike celebrate World Priest Day at Charles and Cathy Cepeda's residence in Kagman.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to our dad, Dino Jones, who is celebrating his special day today, Oct. 27, 2009! Enjoy your 62nd birthday and we love you always. Greetings coming from Mom, Lorraine, Christine, Ray, DJ, Clarissa, Mia, Dina and AJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings go out to Jocelyn B. Cortez, who celebrated her birthday on Oct. 25. "Happy, happy birthday and may you have a wonderful year ahead! Greetings come from your good friends at Toothworks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

What's warm, loving and has you in the middle? It's a Hug! And we're sending U one. Love you lots! Happy 3rd birthday Naju! Greetings from Ninang Maricar, Kuya Mac-Mac, Mommy Jeanette and Kuya Oneil and Ate Fe and Apu Rudy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A belated happy birthday shoutout goes to Judith "Juju" Cabrera, who celebrated her birthday yesterday, Oct. 26! Hope you had a fabulous day! Much love coming from cousin Charisma and cousin Mar Naputi, your entire familia, and friends, as well as your one and only.

Business

GAO: FDA fails to follow up on unproven drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration has allowed drugs for cancer and other diseases to stay on the market even when follow-up studies showed they didn't extend patients' lives, say congressional investigators.

A report due out Monday from the Government Accountability Office also shows that the FDA has never pulled a drug off the market due to a lack of required follow-up about its actual benefits—even when such information is more than a decade overdue.

When pressed about that policy, agency officials said they have no plans to get more aggressive.

The GAO says the FDA should do more to track whether drugs approved based on preliminary results actually have lived up to their promise.

The FDA responded that the report paints an overly negative picture of its so-called "accelerated approval" program, which is only used to approve drugs for the most serious diseases.

"Millions of patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses have had earlier access to new safe and effective treatments," thanks to the program, the FDA said in its response to the report.

In 1992, the FDA began speeding up the approval of novel drugs based on so-called surrogate endpoints, or laboratory measures that suggest the drug will make real improvements in patient health. HIV drugs, for example, are cleared based on their virus-lowering power, a predictor of increased survival.

Drugmakers favor the program because it helps them get products to market sooner, without conducting long-term patient studies that can take years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars. A condition of quicker approvals is that drugmakers conduct follow-up studies to show the drug's benefits actually panned out.

But the GAO report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, identified several drugs still on the market that never lived up to their initial promise. And in the 16 years that the FDA has used accelerated approval, it has never once pulled a drug off the market due to missing or unimpressive follow-up data.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asia markets rise as SKorea reports faster growth

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian markets mostly rose Monday, shrugging off a fall on Wall Street as South Korea's fastest growth in seven years underscored the region's strengthening economic recovery. U.S. stocks faltered on Friday as investors dumped stocks and locked in profits after the glow of a week full of strong earnings reports faded. But markets in Asia found new impetus after South Korea's central bank said economic growth accelerated to 2.9 percent in the third quarter from the previous quarter—the fastest growth since the first quarter of 2002.

Oil falls below $80 for third day of losses

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices slipped below $80 a barrel Monday in Asia as traders looked to this week's company earnings and U.S. economic data for evidence that justifies last week's jump to a 2009 high. Benchmark crude for December delivery fell 74 cents to $79.76 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 69 cents a barrel to settle at $80.50 on Friday. Crude prices, which rose to $82 last week, fell for a third day on investor doubts about the strength of the global economic recovery and as the dollar strengthened.

Capmark Financial files for bankruptcy protection

CHICAGO (AP)—Capmark Financial Group, one of the nation's largest commercial real estate lenders, has filed for bankruptcy protection amid mounting bad debt. Capmark has been hurt by rising losses on mortgage loans, and has had to foreclose on properties such as the Equitable Building in Atlanta because borrowers were not able to make loan payments. In its Chapter 11 filing Sunday in Delaware bankruptcy court, the company listed total debt of $21 billion and assets of $20.1 billion. It seeks to reorganize under court protection, reducing its debt while continuing to operate its businesses. Many U.S. banks and real estate investment trusts have been hurt by increasing losses on commercial real estate loans. With millions of jobs lost and office space remaining empty during the recession, developers have been forced to default on loans. Analysts predict that commercial real estate defaults will rise rapidly.

Barrage of earnings, economic data to drive market

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors would like a definitive answer to the question: Is the economy in fact in recovery? The answers this week may not be conclusive, but they might remove some of the uncertainty that has made stock trading choppy lately.

Investors will get the Commerce Department's first report on third-quarter gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the economy's health. The week will also bring reports on housing prices and new home sales, consumer confidence and durable goods orders, a key indicator for the manufacturing industry.

And earnings reports, which investors are viewing as economic data these days, will continue to flow in. Results from companies including Kellogg Co., Procter & Gamble Co. and Visa Inc. will provide more insight into consumer spending. Reports from several major energy companies, including ConocoPhillips and Exxon Mobil Corp., as well as insurers Aetna Inc. and MetLife Inc., are also expected.

Police: Madoff associate Jeffry Picower dies at 67

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jeffry Picower, a philanthropist accused of profiting more than $7 billion from the investment schemes of his longtime friend Bernard Madoff, was found at the bottom of the pool at his oceanside mansion and died Sunday, police said. He was 67.

Picower's wife discovered his body and pulled him from the water with help from a housekeeper, authorities said. He was pronounced dead at Good Samaritan Medical Center at about 1:30 p.m.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana islands 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALL VENDORS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

6TH ANNUAL ENERGY FAIR
Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH)
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs

This is to inform and invite all vendors and interested parties to participate in our 6th year of DCCA-REACH Energy Fair, which will take place on Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m at the Garapan Fishing Base, across Kristo Rai Church.

All vendors in the area of lightings, refrigeration & air conditioning; energy labeled star products; alternative power sources; energy savings technology; glass window companies; construction companies; hardware stores; and pest control products, are very much welcome to participate in this fair.

This fair is an opportunity to educate members of our community about energy conservation and activities that promote responsible living here in our islands. In the past years, REACH program has provided low-income residents with resources in energy education and conservation. Vendors who participated in the REACH fairs in the previous years have found them to be rewarding, as they were able to provide quality and affordable products that are suitable to the needs of our communities that focus on conservation. In addition, the island communities have come to know that REACH Energy Fair is an annual event where everybody can come and see the latest developments in energy conservation technology.

So come and join us on this great event so that members of our island communities would get to know your products that would be beneficial to them for conserving energy and at the same time products for their health and safety.

Please fill out Vendor Participant Form and send it to REACH/LIHEAP Coordinator, Mr. George S. Fitial no later than October 28, 2009 via fax (670) 664-2570 or e-mail to georgefitial@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

"PROMOTE HEALTH AND SAFETY"

Nation

Sources: Health bill may cut employer mandate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Businesses would not be required to provide health insurance under legislation being readied for Senate debate, but large firms would owe significant penalties if any worker needed government subsidies to buy coverage on their own, according to Democratic officials familiar with talks on the bill.

For firms with more than 50 employees, the fee could be as high as $750 multiplied by the total size of the work force if only a few workers needed federal aid, these officials said. That is a more stringent penalty than in a bill that recently cleared the Senate Finance Committee, which said companies should face penalties on a per-employee basis.

These officials also said individuals would generally be required to purchase affordable insurance if it were available, and face penalties if they defied the requirement.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss the private negotiations involving key Senate Democrats and the White House. They also stressed that no final decisions have been made on the details of the measure, expected to reach the Senate floor in about two weeks.

In general, the bill taking shape in private talks led by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada is designed to answer President Barack Obama's call to remake the nation's health care system. It would expand coverage to millions who lack it, ban insurance industry practices such as denial of coverage for pre-existing medical conditions and slow the growth in medical spending nationally.

Like a companion measure in the House, it would create a new federally regulated marketplace, termed an exchange, where individuals and families could purchase insurance sold by private industry. Federal subsidies would be available to help those at lower incomes afford the cost.

Subsidies would also be available to smaller businesses as an incentive for them to provide insurance.

Nominally, Reid's task is to meld bills already approved by the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. In reality, however, he has a virtual free hand in coming up with a measure, with a goal of amassing a 60-vote majority to overcome a threatened Republican filibuster.

Reid has told fellow senators he is strongly considering including a provision for a government-run insurance plan in the bill as a way to assure consumers have a choice and to create competition for private companies. States would be permitted to drop out under the plan.

That is a somewhat weaker version than the HELP Committee voted for, but the Finance Committee omitted any federal role in the sale of coverage in favor of nonprofit co-ops competing with private industry.

The issue is the most contentious in the effort to overhaul the nation's health care system, and it is not known whether Reid has the 60 votes for his plan.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a leading advocate for a government-run insurance provision, said on NBC's Meet The Press he thought the drive for 60 votes was close to success.

AP

In this photograph provided by "Meet the Press," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, left, and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., right appear on "Meet the Press"' Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009, at the NBC studios in Washington.

Feds to stop prosecuting medical marijuana users

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pot-smoking patients or their sanctioned suppliers should not be targeted for federal prosecution in states that allow medical marijuana, prosecutors were told Monday in a new policy memo issued by the Justice Department.

Under the policy spelled out in a three-page legal memo, federal prosecutors are being told it is not a good use of their time to arrest people who use or provide medical marijuana in strict compliance with state law.

The guidelines issued by the department do, however, make it clear that federal agents will go after people whose marijuana distribution goes beyond what is permitted under state law or use medical marijuana as a cover for other crimes.

The memo advises prosecutors they "should not focus federal resources in your states on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana."

The new policy is a significant departure from the Bush administration, which insisted it would continue to enforce federal anti-pot laws regardless of state codes.

"It will not be a priority to use federal resources to prosecute patients with serious illnesses or their caregivers who are complying with state laws on medical marijuana, but we will not tolerate drug traffickers who hide behind claims of compliance with state law to mask activities that are clearly illegal," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement.

Sheriff in balloon saga doesn't shy from soapbox

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—The sheriff at the center of the runaway balloon saga says he's not enjoying the media spotlight, but that's never stopped the John Wayne fan from using it to offer brash opinions on hot topics.

Larimer County Sheriff Jim Alderden once used his blog to label a nearby city "the imbecilic borough of Boulder" for being too secular for his taste. At a nationally televised news conference Oct. 18, he declared that much of what's on TV is "garbage."

Alderden, who has worked in law enforcement for 37 years, wasn't well known outside his home county until Oct. 15, when the saga of a boy feared carried away on a balloon captivated a live television audience of millions. Since then, he's been a frequent presence on TV, in newspapers and on the Internet.

At first, he told the world he believed Richard and Mayumi Heene when they said they feared their 6-year-old son was aboard the balloon. The boy was later found at the family's Fort Collins home, where he said he'd been hiding because he was afraid he was in trouble.

Alderden

Two days later, Alderden accused the Heenes of perpetrating a hoax for publicity and said he would recommend criminal charges. He said he had only pretended to believe the couple to gain their confidence while deputies investigated.

Since then, he's received e-mails that praise him as a hero or denounce him as a bumbler. A Denver Post editorial suggested his public pretense about believing the Heenes will make residents more cynical about law enforcement.

But people who know Alderden say he's a dedicated officer who has raised his department's professionalism in this county of 290,000 residents.

"He's no-nonsense" but has a sense of humor, said Lance Clem, spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Safety, who served with Alderden on a state crime task force. "I would call him a likable guy."

Alderden describes himself as a patriot. He's a big fan of John Wayne and calls his blog "The Bull's-eye: Straight Shooting From the Sheriff."

When his son, 32-year-old John W. Alderden, served 10 days in the Larimer County jail over a traffic fine this year, the sheriff said he ordered his staff to treat his son like any other inmate.

Video shows Calif. police beating of student

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A cell phone video that shows police officers repeatedly hitting an unarmed university student with batons and a Taser gun has prompted a criminal investigation into the officers' conduct, a San Jose police spokesman said.

The video, posted by the San Jose Mercury News on its Web site late Saturday, shows one officer hitting 20-year-old Vietnamese student Phuong Ho with a metal baton more than 10 times, including once on the head. Another officer is seen using his Taser gun on the San Jose State math major.

The final baton strike in last month's incident appears to take place after handcuffs have been attached to Ho's wrists.

"It takes me back to the day I saw the Rodney King video on TV," said Roger Clark, a police expert and a retired lieutenant with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

The last baton strike ought to bring a felony charge, Clark said.

Officers arrested Ho on suspicion of assaulting one of his roommates. He was not armed when police arrived and he told the newspaper he didn't resist arrest.

The confrontation began Sept. 3 when Ho's roommate, Jeremy Suftin, put soap on Ho's steak. The two scuffled, and Ho picked up a steak knife, saying that in his home country he would have killed Suftin for doing what he did.

Police were called, and four officers responded.

Officer Kenneth Siegel encountered Ho in the hallway, but couldn't understand the student's accent, police reports said. Ho then ignored a police command to stand still, reports said.

When Ho tried to follow Siegel into his room, officer Steven Payne Jr. moved to handcuff Ho. Payne wrote in his report that he pushed the student into a wall and then forced him to the floor when he resisted being handcuffed.

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ town grieves for slain priest, accused janitor

CHATHAM, N.J. (AP)—An arrest in the brutal slaying of a Roman Catholic priest has brought little solace to his parishioners in this affluent community, who widely view the suspected role of the longtime church janitor as a second tragedy. More than 150 people at St. Patrick's Church for Sunday's early Mass prayed for the Rev. Ed Hinds, whose body was discovered in the church rectory Friday, and for Jose Feliciano, who is charged with stabbing the priest 32 times with a kitchen knife. "This is a tragedy for this community," the Rev. Owen Moran said after leading Mass. "It's a tragedy for Father Ed and his family, and it's a tragedy for the Feliciano family."

Feds interview crew of plane that overshot airport

MINNEAPOLIS(AP)—Federal investigators interviewed the crew of the Northwest Airlines flight that overshot the Minneapolis airport by 150 miles on Sunday. National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway said investigators were interviewing the pilot and co-pilot in person in Minneapolis. He would not provide additional details, but did say the NTSB would not comment on the substance of the discussions until Monday at the earliest. Northwest Airlines is cooperating and doing its own internal investigation, said Chris Kelly, a spokesman for Northwest Airlines' parent company, Delta Air Lines Inc.

Harvard: Lab workers poisoned by tainted coffee

BOSTON (AP)—Six Harvard University medical researchers were poisoned in August after drinking coffee that was laced with a chemical preservative, according to university officials. In an internal memo first reported in the Boston Herald's Sunday editions, the school said the coffee came from a machine near their lab that later tested positive for sodium azide, a common preservative used in labs. The six reported symptoms after drinking the coffee Aug. 26, ranging from dizziness to ringing in the ears, and one passed out. They were treated at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and later released.

Texas child sex abuser gets 80 life sentences

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A Texas man who confessed to sexually abusing a child over a three year period has been sentenced to 80 life sentences. Scott Lee Zulfer pleaded guilty Friday to 69 charges of aggravated sexual assault and 11 charges of continuous sexual abuse from 2006 to 2008. The 44-year-old from Kerrville was arrested in May. District Attorney Amos Barton said he sought a life sentence for each count against Zulfer "just in case he lived through the first 79."

Asia

Disgraced cloning expert convicted in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A disgraced South Korean scientist who falsely claimed to have achieved major breakthroughs in stem cell research was convicted Monday of charges connected to his research and faced sentencing later in the day.

Hwang Woo-suk, 56, was charged with accepting funds under false pretenses, embezzling and illegally buying human eggs for his research, which carry a total maximum penalty of life in prison. It was not immediately clear which charges he was convicted of.

Prosecutors have demanded a four-year prison term for the man once hailed as a national hero for his purported scientific breakthroughs. Sentencing was due to take place later Monday at Seoul Central District Court.

In 2004, Hwang and former colleagues at Seoul National University claimed in a paper published in the journal Science that they had created the world's first cloned human embryos - and had extracted stem cells from them.

AP

South Korean disgraced scientist Hwang Woo-suk arrives for his trial at the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Oct. 26, 2009.

Stem cell research is highly sensitive, and Hwang had been the only South Korean scientist allowed to carry out studies on the master cells that scientists say could lead to revolutionary cures for hard-to-treat diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

A year later, Hwang's team also claimed in the journal that they had created human embryonic stem cells genetically matched to specific patients, a purported breakthrough that promised a way to withstand rejection by a patient's immune system.

However, a university committee declared that the 2005 paper was based on faked data, and cast doubt on his 2004 findings as well. The journal Science retracted both papers.

The South Korean government stripped him of the license to carry out stem cell research in 2006, citing "ethical problems." Hwang was charged later that year.

4 US troops die in Afghan chopper collision

KABUL (AP)—Two helicopters collided Monday in southern Afghanistan, killing four American troops and injuring two, the military said.

A third U.S. helicopter crashed in a separate incident in the west, leaving "some dead," U.S. military spokeswoman Elizabeth Mathias said. She did not have details on how many or their nationalities.

It was unclear what caused the collision in the south. U.S. military spokesman Col. Wayne Shanks said the military had ruled out hostile fire but he did not have any other details. He said the injured had been evacuated to hospitals inside Afghanistan.

The third helicopter went down during an operation by Afghan and international forces in which a dozen militants were killed, the military said. It said the crash happened in western Afghanistan without giving a more precise location.

Mathias said hostile fire or other insurgent activity was not believed to be the cause, but they were still looking into all possibilities.

Troops from the U.S., other NATO countries and Afghanistan were on board the helicopter, she said, adding that a recovery operation was under way.

This has been the deadliest year for international and U.S. forces since the 2001 invasion to oust the Taliban. Fighting spiked around the presidential vote in August, and 51 U.S. soldiers died that month—the deadliest for American forces in the eight-year war.

More than 30 American troops have died so far in October.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan PM: Reviving weak economy top priority

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's new prime minister declared Monday that reviving the nation's sluggish economy is top priority for his government and stressed seeking "close and equal" ties with the U.S. in a speech outlining his main policy goals to parliament. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, whose government swept to power in an August landslide election victory that unseated a long-ruling conservative party, said key objectives include creating new jobs, cutting public works spending, and giving cash to families with children. Hatoyama also said he wants to seek a "close and equal" alliance with the U.S., which he described as the "cornerstone" of Japanese diplomacy. He added that he wants to "frankly" discuss a plan to realign U.S. military bases in Japan, where 47,000 American troops are based under a security pact.

SKorea offers first food aid to NKorea in 2 years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea offered a small amount of food aid to North Korea on Monday—its first direct assistance to the impoverished neighbor in nearly two years of strained relations. The offer of 10,000 tons of corn, however, is far short of addressing the North's food shortages and does not mean Seoul's conservative government, which has linked aid to Pyongyang's progress in abandoning its nuclear programs, is resuming full-scale assistance to the North, officials said. The amount pales in comparison with hundreds of thousands of tons of food that the South used to ship across the militarized border annually under its previous liberal presidents.

Mongolian prime minister tenders resignation

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP)—Mongolian Prime Minister Bayar Sanjaa said Friday he wanted to resign for health reasons, bringing new political uncertainty to his impoverished but resource-rich nation. Bayar Sanjaa's request to step down must be approved by the Asian nation's parliament speaker, said Khurelsukh Ukhaa of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. The MPRP leadership plans to meet on Wednesday to discuss how to respond. Bayar Sanjaa has previously sought treatment overseas for liver problems due to a hepatitis C infection and was hospitalized again last week in the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator.

World

Karadzic genocide trial to begin despite boycott

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The war crimes trial of Radovan Karadzic, who led the Bosnian Serbs through a brutal three-year civil war in the early 1990s, begins Monday about 15 months after he was captured in Serbia. The prosecution and defense will each have one year to present their case.

Karadzic is boycotting Monday's hearing to protest his lack of time to prepare for the trial, saying he needs months more to get ready. His refusal to show up at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal is a blow to survivors who hold him responsible for tens of thousands of deaths during the brutal 1992-95 Bosnian war.

The case comes as a relief after the trial of Karadzic's former political mentor Slobodan Milosevic collapsed without a verdict after he died in 2006.

Observers agree that the 64-year-old Karadzic's absence from Courtroom One at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal should not overshadow the case's significance. Karadzic's trial is seen as a chance for the tribunal to make amends for Milosevic's ill-fated trial, which dragged on for four years before his fatal heart attack.

Karadzic

Milosevic, the former Yugoslav president, died during his war crimes trial on a sprawling indictment spanning nearly a decade from the opening shots of the Balkan conflicts to 1999 fighting in Kosovo.

Karadzic is charged with genocide—one count for the 1995 murder of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica and a second for the Bosnian Serb campaign of ethnic cleansing against the country's Muslim and Croat populations. He faces nine other charges including extermination, persecution and taking peacekeepers hostage.

Karadzic has repeatedly refused to enter pleas, but insists he is innocent. He faces a maximum life sentence if convicted at his trial.

Violent clashes erupt at Jerusalem's holiest site

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli police firing stun grenades faced off Sunday against masked Palestinian protesters hurling stones and plastic chairs outside the Holy Land's most volatile shrine, where past violence has escalated into prolonged conflict.

A wall of Israeli riot police behind plexiglass shields marched toward young men covering their faces with T-shirts and scarves, sending many of them running for cover into the Al-Aqsa mosque, one of the Islamic structures in the compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

They remained holed up in the mosque with police outside for several hours until dispersing before nightfall. Eighteen protesters were arrested, and no serious injuries were reported. But even mild troubles at the disputed compound in Jerusalem's Old City can quickly ignite widespread unrest, and police remained on high alert.

Bombings target government in Baghdad, 147 killed

BAGHDAD (AP)—A pair of suicide car bombings Sunday devastated the heart of Iraq's capital, killing at least 147 people in the country's deadliest attack in more than two years. The bombs targeted two government buildings and called into question Iraq's ability to protect its people as U.S. forces withdraw.

The bombings show that insurgents still have the ability to launch horrific attacks even as violence has dropped dramatically in Iraq. Many fear such attacks will only increase as Iraq prepares for crucial January elections.

The dead included 35 employees at the Ministry of Justice and at least 25 staff members of the Baghdad Provincial Council, said police and medical officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. At least 721 people were wounded, including three American contractors.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN inspectors visit once-secret Iranian site

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—U.N. inspectors entered a once-secret uranium enrichment facility with bunker-like construction and heavy military protection that raised Western suspicions about the extent and intent of Iran's nuclear program. The visit Sunday by the four-member International Atomic Energy Agency team, reported by state media, was the first independent look inside the planned nuclear fuel lab, a former ammunition dump burrowed into the treeless hills south of Tehran and only publicly disclosed last month. The inspectors are expected to study plant blueprints, interview workers and take soil samples before wrapping up the three-day mission. No results from the inspection are expected until the team leaves the country, but some Iranian officials hailed the visit as an example that their nuclear program was open to international scrutiny.

Ex-guerrilla, rival in Uruguay presidential runoff

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—A blunt-talking former guerrilla seeking to maintain the left's hold on power in Uruguay easily got the most votes in presidential elections Sunday, but failed to win the majority needed to avoid a runoff. Jose "Pepe" Mujica got about 48 percent of the votes compared to 30 percent for former president Luis Alberto LaCalle, a free-marketeer who wants to cut government and taxes and reduce alliances with Latin American leftists. Two voter initiatives—one to remove amnesty for human rights abuses under the 1973-85 dictatorship and another to enable mail-in votes by citizens living outside Uruguay—also failed to win majorities, according to exit polls by the companies Cifra, Factum and Equipos Mori. The Electoral Court was expected to release most offical results on Monday.

Opposition activist killed in southern Russia

NAZRAN, Russia (AP)—A prominent opposition and rights activist in Russia's southern province of Ingushetia was shot dead Sunday in at least the third killing of a human rights defender in the volatile North Caucasus region in just over three months. Maksharip Aushev worked to publicize human rights abuses and organize rallies against Ingushetia's deeply unpopular former president, Murat Zyazikov—activities which observers said made him powerful enemies. Aushev died when several assailants sprayed his vehicle with automatic gunfire from a passing car. A woman traveling with him was badly wounded in the attack on a road in the neighboring province of Kabardino-Balkariya, police said.

Overdrive

DODGE RAM 1500 CREW CAB SLT

In the truck world, beauty is a beast

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Beauty takes on new meaning at county landfill in Lorton, Va., where refuse from home and shop compete with nature for attention. It is a place where strength and brawn are honored, where practicality trumps gadgetry, where wheels that can't haul or pull, or that do a lousy job of complying with those tasks, are so useless they border on silly.

It's a truck kind of a place. And over the next few months, in this season of leaf piles and fallen tree limbs and discovered junk in the basement and storage shed, when sedans and sports cars won't do, we're going to look at trucks, both pickups and sport-utility vehicles—wheels that bring frowns to the faces of urban folk and that make environmentalists wince ... until they have to haul stuff to a place like this.

We'll start with the Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT, a truck as muscular and as long as its name—surely enough a work truck, but one that offers an amenable ride without in any way undermining its truck genetics, or, what for purposes of handy reference I will call it TG.

The Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT, for this column equipped with all-wheel drive, optional 20-inch wheels, and a bodacious 5.7-liter, 390-horsepower V-8 engine, is capable to the max. The only thing I would change about it, and I'm not alone in this, is that guzzling gasoline engine.

I've traveled all over Virginia and parts of North Carolina talking to real truck people—folks who actually need and use trucks in their daily lives—and I've discovered a hankering for diesel engines in standard pickups such as the Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT, the Chevrolet Silverado, the ever-popular Ford F-150 and the Toyota Tundra.

That's diesel, as opposed to the dual-mode gas-electric hybrids being produced by General Motors and a few other companies. Real truck people are practical sorts. It makes little sense to them to use two drive systems, at increased cost and complexity, where one will do.

Diesel gives them a 30 percent improvement in fuel efficiency over gasoline, using one drive system. Diesel also gives them substantially more torque—twisting, pulling power. More torque means more work done. Real truck people work for a living, and as one truck person told me in Staunton, Va., "Whoever comes up with a good, affordable diesel in a standard pickup is the company that wins in my book."

The Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT swallows regular gasoline at the rate of 15 miles per gallon, combined city-highway. That egregious consumption is reduced somewhat by technology that deactivates four of the truck's eight cylinders at low speeds and under light loads. There's also the possibility of getting better mileage with different equipment mixes, such as rear-wheel-drive-only mated with a standard 4.7-liter, 310-horsepower V-8.

But my sojourn through the truck culture of places such as the local landfill has taught me that, when it comes to pickups, power nearly always gets more respect than fuel economy—power and muscle.

But that emphasis on brawn raises some suspicions about the Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT in the kingdom of pickup trucks. Here's why:

Most pickups have leaf-spring rear suspensions—semi-concentric strips of steel bent one within the other to support the truck's weight. Leaf springs have done a good support job for decades, but at the expense of a comfortable ride.

The Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT dispenses with leaf springs in favor of coil springs. Coil springs also do a good support job, but they offer a much more comfortable ride in the process. Apparently, comfort is suspect in the truck world.

"That the one with them coils?" asked a fellow landfill patron.

"Yes," I said. And in answering in the affirmative, I seemed to have come down several notches in his esteem.

"Humph," he said. "But can it do what a truck do?"

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT is as muscular and as long as its name. It's surely enough a work truck, but one that offers an amenable ride without in any way undermining its truck genetics.

NUTS & BOLTS

THE BOTTOM LINE
The Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT can "do what a truck do." But I wish it would do it with diesel instead of gasoline.

COMPLAINTS
Other than fuel economy—that is, the lack of it—I have none.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
It rides and handles discernibly better than most of its genre. But gentility does not undermine its truck genetics. Acceleration is good. But you shove down that gas pedal at risk to your wallet.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Muscular to the max. It's intimidating.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT is a standard-size, front-engine pickup with four side doors and a short cargo bed (5 feet 6 inches). It is available with rear-wheel or all-wheel drive.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSION
A 4.7-liter, 310-horsepower V-8 (330 foot-pounds of torque) is standard. The test model was equipped with the optional 5.7-liter, 390-horsepower V-8 (410 foot-pounds) and a five-speed automatic transmission.

TECH OPTION NOTE
Those Ram Boxes! They have to be among the best, most useful pickup-truck options ever—lockable saddle boxes embedded in the rear fenders, great for carrying tools, hunting and fishing gear—or for picnics.

MILEAGE
In the tested model with four-wheel drive, using regular gasoline, I got 15 miles per gallon combined city-highway.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for six people. The Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT can be equipped to carry a payload—onboard weight—of 1,430 pounds. It can tow a trailer weighing up to 8,550 pounds. Fuel capacity is 26 gallons. It can take regular gasoline, or 85 percent gasoline in available FlexFuel models.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes ventilated front disc brakes, solid rear discs; four-wheel antilock brake protection; electronic braking assistance for added vehicle control in panic stops; electronic stability and traction control; and head air bags. Side air bags were not available at this writing.

PRICE
The base price (2009 listing) on the Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT with all-wheel drive is $32,945. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $29,497. Price as tested is $38,700, including $4,885 in options (5.7-liter V-8 engine, 20-inch wheels, auxiliary power outlet, heated/foldaway side mirrors; "detonator yellow" exterior paint) and a $900 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $34,524. There are discounts aplenty. Prices are sourced from Chrysler, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

An eager and willing Mazda

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Look, the world needs some good news. Wars, the economy, swine flu. My God, Andrew Lloyd Webber is making a sequel to "Phantom of the Opera."

So now comes the 2010 Mazdaspeed3—which is the best-in-class compact-hatch Mazda3 stuffed with horsepower foie gras—and that, oppressed citizens, is an occasion for good cheer.

Here's a car with room for four adults and one magical halfling; a car with excellent rear cargo storage and good fuel economy; a car with a sticker price ($23,945 base MSRP) within reach of every waiter, barista and entry-level clerical whipping boy in the San Fernando Valley.

And it rips.

Powered by a fervid, phat-with-torque turbocharged four-cylinder engine (263 hp) and strung with a cat's cradle of stiff springs and struts, sticky 18-inch tires and big brakes, the Mazdaspeed3 can throw you around like a baggage handler at Los Angeles International Airport.

And may I say how refreshing it is to drive a sporty car that doesn't weigh 2 freaking tons? The Mazdaspeed3 weighs a feathery 3,221 pounds, and this relative freedom from mass translates to moments of hilarious fun on the road. The car is pitch-able, chuck-able, eager and willing.

Inside the Mazdaspeed3, matters improve. The styling is restrained and contemporary, with overachieving finish materials and leathers and, at night, a faint techno-glow from the indirect lighting and jazzy instrumentation. One reason for the spare modernity of the instrument console is that many of the function switches have been relocated to the steering wheel. The seats and door panels are trussed up in kinetic-pattern cloth weave, which is great if you like your car to have a moire pattern.

The big glitch in the Mazda innards is the curious, if not downright crazy, location of the tiny multifunction-navigation display, stuffed under a binnacle near the windshield. I know it's a budget car and finding real estate in the dash console for a big display is a packaging challenge for designers. Still, this isn't a nav screen, it's an eye test.

Anyway, that's OK. One of the things about the Mazdaspeed3 I like is its embrace of character, its willingness to let a little raggedness show here and there in the cause of adrenaline. The net of it is a pocket rocket that feels an order of magnitude more grown-up and livable, more of a sports tourer, than the rubber-band toy racers in its class.

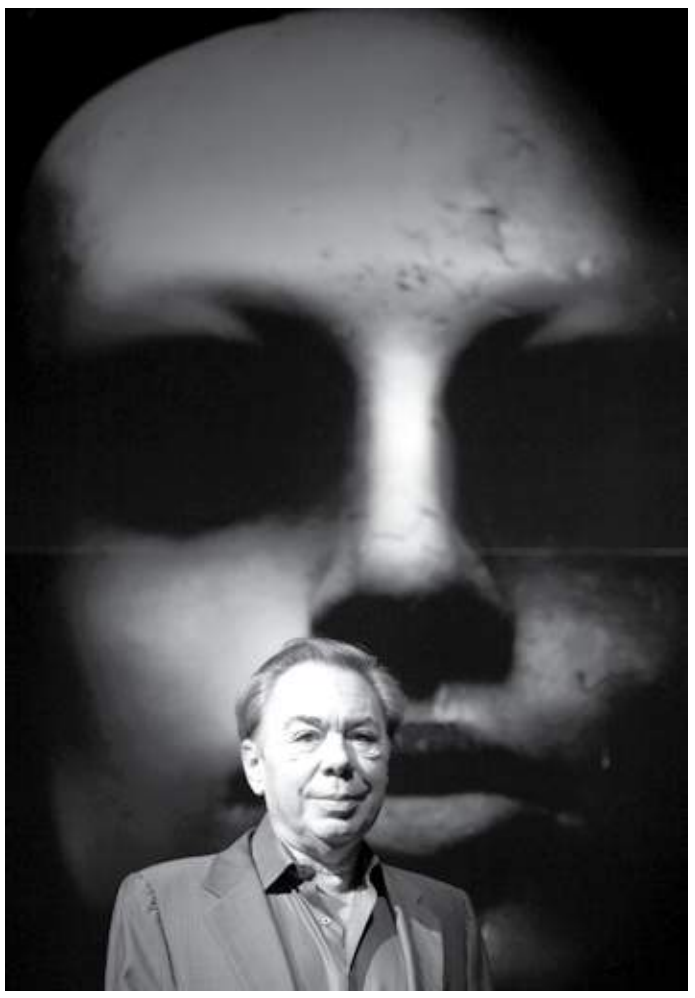
Speaking of civilized, check out the price: The Mazdaspeed3 comes with every doodad in the Mazda parts catalog, from halogen fog lights and chrome-tipped exhaust to leather trim and aluminum door sills. The $1,895 Tech package kicks in the nav, the 10-speaker, six-disc Bose sound system, keyless entry and some other stuff. Fully loaded and out the door at $25,840.

However, it does require high-test gas, and if you keep your boot in it, fuel economy can go from good to awful pretty quick. Let your conscience be your guide.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2010 Mazdaspeed3 is a car with excellent rear cargo storage, good fuel economy and a sticker price ($23,945 base MSRP) within reach.

Life & Style



AP

In this Oct. 8, 2009 file photo British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber promotes his new production "Love Never Dies" at a theater in London.

Andrew Lloyd Webber diagnosed with cancer

LONDON (AP)—Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, his spokeswoman said Sunday.

The 61-year-old Lloyd Webber's condition is in its early stages, a statement from his publicists said.

"Andrew is now undergoing treatment and expects to be fully back at work before the end of the year," the statement said.

Lloyd Webber recently announced plans for a sequel to his phenomenally successful musical "Phantom of the Opera." Called "Love Never Dies," it is scheduled to open in London in March and follow on Broadway in November. Rehearsals begin in the new year.

At a media event for the new musical earlier this month, Lloyd Webber said that while the story picks up where "Phantom" left off, he doesn't regard it as a sequel—"it's a standalone piece."

But Lloyd Webber said he was inspired to write the musical because "there's unfinished business."

In "Love Never Dies," the Phantom leaves Paris for Coney Island at the turn of the century, which Lloyd Webber said was like Las Vegas "and then triple it."

Producers say the original "Phantom"—a fixture of the London and New York stages—has been seen by more than 100 million people around the world. In September, it became the longest-running show in Broadway history, brushing aside Lloyd Webber's "Cats."

Lloyd Webber's other musical hits have included "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Evita." He owns several theaters in London's famous West End.

According to his Web site, Lloyd Webber has won seven Tony Awards, three Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe and an Oscar. In 2006, he was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor.

Lloyd Webber was knighted in 1992 and named to Britain's House of Lords in 1997.

Tiff over White House camera crew and Fox

NEW YORK (AP)—The Obama administration allowed a Fox News Channel reporter to interview Treasury Department "pay czar" Kenneth Feinberg after other network news executives said they wouldn't use a pool arrangement to speak to him unless Fox was included.

The dispute over the interview on Thursday comes in the midst of an ongoing battle between the White House and Fox over the network's coverage of President Barack Obama.

The White House said it had received requests from TV networks to speak to Feinberg and had asked that the interviews be recorded through the networks' pool arrangement. The pool is set up and paid for by ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and Fox to save time and resources, so a single camera crew can record interviews done by separate network correspondents.

The White House said Fox had not asked for an interview and the White House sent its request for a pool reporter without including Fox. Bureau chiefs held a quick conference call and decided that their networks would not do the interviews unless Fox was given the opportunity, said a network executive who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person did not wish to be a part of the White House-Fox tiff.

Singer Morrissey released from hospital

LONDON (AP)—Former Smiths frontman Morrissey was released Sunday from a hospital where he was held overnight after collapsing on stage during a concert.

Morrissey

A spokeswoman for the Great Western Hospital in the English city of Swindon said the singer was "much improved."

"Morrissey became unwell, and he was admitted overnight as a precautionary measure," she said on condition of anonymity, in line with hospital policy. "He's been seen by the medical team, much improved and now discharged home."

A note on the 50-year-old singer's Web site thanked fans for their good wishes.

Morrissey was performing at the Oasis Leisure Centre in Swindon, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of London, on Saturday night as part of his "Swords" tour when he was stricken. Two band members rushed to his side and dragged him offstage.

Fans were unsure what had happened. Jillian Moody told the BBC that some expected him to return to the stage.

"I didn't think he looked particularly well but then again, he's well known as a reclusive character so I sort of thought that was just the way he was when he was on stage," she said. "He kept putting his hand up to his mouth as if he felt sick or perhaps he was trying to hide something, but he didn't look particularly comfortable. He got through the whole song though... to rapturous applause at the end."

Death and Funeral Announcement

In celebration of her new life

Anunciacion Sablan Palacios

Lovingly known as "Uncha Neni"

DOB: March 20, 1923
DOD: October 16, 2009

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her Children and Spouses:

Roman S. & Patricia T. Palacios & Family
Jesusa P. & Joaquin M. Iglecias & Family
George S. & Lydia R. Palacios & Family
Antonia P. & Jay J. Corral & Family
Darlene P. Macaranas & Family
David S. & Margarita M. Palacios & Family
Rita S. Palacios & Louie Dimla & Family
Anuncia S. Palacios & Adam Mazon & Daughter
Jesse S. Palacios & Mylyn Juni & Daughter

Brothers/Sisters & Spouses: **Tomasa C. & Leopoldo Naraja & Family**
Ana C. Toy & Son
Antonia C. & Fermin M. Sakisat & Family
Jesus D. & Victorina C. Sablan & Family

Brothers In-Law: **Francisco M. Palacios & Family**
Jose S. Pinaula & Family

Caretakers: **Elenita Banel**
Aurora Torres
Lina Marucot

Uncha Neni is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and relatives.

In her new life, she now joins:

Husband	+Jesus Muna Palacios
Mother	+Rita Sablan Camacho
Father	+Gregorio SN. Sablan
Step Father	+Jesus C. Camacho
Reared Mother	+Emilia P. Sablan
Reared Father	+Vicente R. Sablan
Mother In-Law	+Natividad M. Palacios
Son In-Law	+Richard I. Macaranas
Sisters & Brothers In-Law	+Antonina C./+Miguel P. Tenorio
	+Teodora S. Camacho
	+Juana C. Pinaula
	+Jesusa S. Camacho
	+Matilde S. /Marcus Untalan
	+Rita S./+Luis C. Tenorio
	+Rosalia S./+Juan Pangelinan
	+Clark Toy
Brothers & Sisters In-Law	+Vicente S. Camacho
	+Antonio S. Camacho
	+Vicente S. Camacho
	+Antonio S. Camacho
	+Ignacio S./+Rosa T. Camacho
	+Vicente D./+Michiko H. Sablan
	+Rufina Palacios

Daily mass is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am and nightly rosary is also being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:00pm.

On October 28, 2009 (Wednesday) her remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:00am. Viewing and last respects begin at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am followed by the interment services at Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers and un dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase.

GINEN I FAMAGUON YAN I FAMILIA

‘Paranormal Activity’ slays ‘Saw’ with $22 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—”Paranormal Activity” has won a weekend battle of fright films over part six of the “Saw” franchise.

Paramount’s upstart chiller “Paranormal Activity” went into nationwide release and took over the No. 1 spot with $22 million. That compares to just $14.8 million for the debut of “Saw VI,” a franchise that has been an annual Halloween fixture since 2004.

It was the worst opening ever for Lionsgate’s “Saw” series, whose previous low was $18.3 million for the original movie. Subsequent installments of the “Saw” franchise all opened at $30 million or better.

This time, horror fans simply gravitated toward “Paranormal Activity” instead of “Saw VI.”

“‘Paranormal’ ate their lunch,” said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. “There’s no other way to explain it.”

1. **“Paranormal Activity,”** *$22 million.*
2. **“Saw VI,”** *$14.8 million.*
3. **“Where the Wild Things Are,”** *$14.4 million.*
4. **“Law Abiding Citizen,”** *$12.7 million.*
5. **“Couples Retreat,”** *$11.1 million.*
6. **“Astro Boy,”** *$7 million.*
7. **“The Stepfather,”** *$6.5 million.*
8. **“Cirque du Freak: The Vampire’s Assistant,”** *$6.3 million.*
9. **“Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs,”** *$5.6 million.*
10. **“Zombieland,”** *$4.3 million.*

After four weeks in narrower release, Paramount slotted “Paranormal Activity” into 1,945 theaters. That still was just under two-thirds of the 3,036 theater count for “Saw VI.”

“Paranormal Activity” raised its total haul to $62.5 million. The low-budget movie was shot for a reported $15,000 but has become a horror sensation because of online fan buzz. The fictional movie unfolds like a homemade documentary as a couple copes with apparitions and supernatural phenomena in their home.

It has a strong shot at topping $100 million, something none of the “Saw” movies ever managed. While “Saw,” the grisly saga of a puppetmaster putting victims through savage moral tests, was embraced as a fresh twist by horror fans five years ago, it now is part of the Hollywood establishment compared to “Paranormal Activity.”

The previous weekend’s No. 1 movie, the Warner Bros. tale “Where the Wild Things Are,” fell to No. 3, just behind “Saw VI” with $14.4 million. Spike Jonze’s adaptation of the beloved children’s book by Maurice Sendak raised its total to $54 million.

Among other wide releases, Summit Entertainment’s “Astro Boy” opened at No. 6 with $7 million, Universal’s “Cirque du Freak: The Vampire’s Assistant” debuted at No. 8 with $6.3 million, and Fox Searchlight’s “Amelia” premiered at No. 11 with $4 million.

In limited release from IFC Films, Lars von Trier’s graphic “Antichrist” had a modest debut, pulling in $73,500 in six theaters for a $12,250 average. The movie stars Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg as a couple whose relationship devolves into torture and self-mutilation after the death of their child.

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Astro Boy
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Tues 4:15 7:30
Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage
Action, Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis: Set in futuristic Metro City, the tale of a young robot with incredible powers created by a brilliant scientist named Tenma. Powered bypositive “blue” energy, is endowed with superstrength, x-ray vision, unbelievable speed and the ability to fly. Embarking on a journey in search of acceptance, Astro Boy encounters many other colorful characters along the way. Through his adventures, he learns the joysand emotions of being human, and gains the strength to embrace his destiny.

Vampire’s Assistant
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Tues 4:30 7:25
John C. Reilly, Chris Mssoglia
Adventure, Fantasy, Children • Rated PG 13
Synopsis: 16-year-old Darren was like most kids in his suburban neighborhood. He hung out with his best friend Steve, got decent grades and usually stayed out of trouble. But when he and his buddy stumble upon a traveling freak show, things begin to change inside Darren. That’s the exact moment when a vampire named Larten Crepsley turns him into something, well, bloodthirsty. Newly undead, he joins the Cirque Du Freak, a touring sideshow filled with monstrous creatures from a snakeboy and a wolfman to a bearded lady and a gigantic barker.

Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Anna Faris, James Caan
Animated, Children, Adaptation • Rated PG

Saw VI
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Tues 4:05 7:10
Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell
Horror • Rated R

Law Abiding Citizen
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Tues 4:00 7:00
Jamie Foxx, Gerald Butler
Thriller • Rated R

Where The Wild Things Are
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Tues 4:25 7:20
Katherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG

The Stepfather
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Tues 4:20 7:15
Dyland Walsh, Sela Ward
Thriller, Horron • Rated PG 13

Get your tickets now for the limited engagement of Michael Jackson’s THIS IS IT.
Opening Wednesday, October 28th at 2:00 pm!
Tickets available at the box office or at www.gohollywood.com!

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Crowded theaters build the momentum for 3D at home

AP

In this file publicity image released by Sony Pictures Animation, “Sam Sparks,” voiced by Anna Faris, and “Flint Lockwood,” voiced by Bill Hader, are seen in Columbia Pictures’ animated film “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.” Fans scrambled to see 3-D movies such as “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” this year and new 3-D televisions could soon have home viewers feeling like they’re surrounded by a spaghetti hurricane on their couches.

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fans scrambled to see 3-D movies such as “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” in theaters this year and new 3-D televisions could soon have home viewers feeling as if they’re surrounded by a spaghetti hurricane on their couches.

Next year major electronics manufacturers Sony Corp. and Panasonic Corp. plan to introduce 3-D-capable high-definition televisions for the mass market. You’ll still need to wear special glasses, though.

Movie studios hope 3-D can help lift the sagging home video market the same way it has pushed up box office results.

The initial price of such sets is expected to be high—perhaps 20 percent more than normal sets of the same size. But costs should come down in the coming years.

Depending on prices, 3-D-ready TVs could be in 28 million to 46 million homes worldwide by 2013, predicts Alfred Poor, an analyst with GigaOM Pro. He estimates that next year, as many as 2.5 million sets worldwide will be sold with 3-D capability.

“We’re raising a whole generation of kids who expect to see this effect for their movies at home,” Poor said. “I think people want 3-D. I just don’t think they’re going to want to pay a whole lot more for it.”

To avoid the need for special screens, some manufacturers of TV sets are shunning the 3-D technology common in theaters in favor of what’s known as “active shutter.” That uses an infrared emitter on the TV to tell battery-powered glasses when to flicker the left and right lenses in conjunction with the images on the screen, which gives the perception of three dimensions.

The sets themselves will require relatively minor upgrades from today’s models, but the glasses will cost more, raising the price of the overall package.

There’s no question 3-D movies are popular.

They generated more than $1 billion at box offices worldwide this year, and on a per-screen basis, 3-D showings typically bring in more than double the revenue of regular screenings when a movie is offered in both versions.

For hits like Disney/Pixar’s “Up” and 20th Century Fox’s “Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs,” more than half of ticket revenues came from 3-D screens, despite accounting for far fewer showings, according to research firm Screen Digest. Those screenings tend to fill up, and moviegoers are willing to pay a few dollars extra per ticket.

Making these 3-D movies hasn’t been cheap, and so far there hasn’t been an adequate way to recoup those higher costs in the home video market, which brings in far more dollars to studios than the theatrical release.

In September, DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. released a two-disc pack of “Monsters vs Aliens” with just a 3-D bonus vignette accompanying a 2-D version of the movie. It comes with cardboard glasses with magenta and green lenses that create a 3-D effect. The so-called “anaglyph” technology is out of date and can distort colors but works with regular TVs.

“We think for 10 minutes or so, it’s a fun experience, but it’s not a great experience for an hour-and-a-half or two-hour-long movie,” said John Batter, DreamWorks’ co-president of production for feature animation.

The studio is considering a re-release of the movie at higher prices using modern 3-D technology, followed by future releases after 3-D TVs become available next year. Batter said 3-D releases “will certainly grow over time and it will become I think a significant part of our home video business in a three- to five-year cycle.”

Meanwhile, Universal Studios Home Entertainment released the stop-motion animated movie “Coraline” in July both in 2-D and 3-D with the cardboard glasses, but director Henry Selick said he was disappointed with the result.

“I wish they’d waited to do the home 3-D release until the technology caught up to what it was in the theaters,” Selick told a conference last month. “I’m disappointed in how few people got to see it in the best possible way.”

As more living rooms are equipped for movies in 3-D, studios will have stronger incentives to release them for home viewing especially as 3-D movies are expected to spend less time in theaters.

Timberlake gets restraining order against woman

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Timberlake was granted a temporary restraining order on Friday against a woman his attorney described as an obsessed stalker, court records show.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Cunningham III granted the "SexyBack" singer the protective order against Karen J. McNeil, 48.

In this Sept. 9, 2007 file photo Justin Timberlake poses backstage at the MTV Video Music Awards in Las Vegas.

AP

Timberlake's attorney, Evan Spiegel, described McNeil in court filings as a "mentally unstable celebrity stalker." The papers state McNeil was placed in protective psychiatric custody by police after she trespassed at the singer's home on Thursday.

McNeil's actions have "become much more alarming and her motivation and obsession have become more ominous, intrusive and threatening," according to the filings.

The records said it's the third time McNeil has showed up at Timberlake's home and that she may be homeless. She left a letter characterized as "bizarre" during a trip to the singer's home in June, the records show.

Attempts to find a phone number for McNeil were unsuccessful.

Cunningham will consider whether to grant a three-year restraining order at a Nov. 9 hearing.

Timberlake, 28, has won multiple Grammy Awards for songs such as "SexyBack" and "Cry Me a River." His petition for a restraining order does not seek protection for anyone else.

Madonna returns to Malawi to launch girls school

LILONGWE, Malawi (AP)—Madonna arrived in Malawi Sunday to visit the girls school she is building in the impoverished country where she adopted two children, an official for the star's charity said.

The official who could not be named because he was not authorized to speak on the matter said Madonna arrived at about 2:30 p.m. (1230 GMT; 8:30 a.m. EDT) on Ethiopian Airlines.

The 51-year-old celebrity was accompanied by her four children—Lourdes, 13, Rocco, 9, as well as her two adopted children. Madonna adopted the Malawian-born Mercy, 3, this year and David, 4, in 2008.

The official said Madonna would take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the school on Monday.

Madonna's Raising Malawi, a charity founded in 2006 when she first visited the country, helps feed, educate and provide medical care for some of Malawi's orphans.

Malawi, a nation of 12 million, is one of the poorest countries in the world. About 500,000 children have lost a parent to AIDS.

Madonna will also meet with President Bingu wa Mutharika and visit some of the orphanages her charity supports.

The school she is building for poor girls is on the outskirts of the capital and is similar to the one built by talk show host Oprah Winfrey in South Africa.

AP

In this Sept. 9, 2009 photo, rapper Lil Jon poses for a photo in Miami Beach, Fla.

Rapper Lil Jon sets out to complete new album

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Rapper and music producer Lil Jon says completing his long-awaited new album has taken him longer than he thought, but sticking to his ambitious idea of mixing crunk music with rock has always been his driving force.

"We're pret ty much like 80 percent done," Lil Jon said of "Crunk Rock," his first solo album, slated to be released by early next year. "It's probably one of my best albums to date in the sense that it's got a little bit of everything that I know everybody's going to groove to."

The Atlanta-based entertainer, best known for hits like "Get Low" with the Eastside Boyz, has been working on the upcoming album for about five years. His new single, a disco tune, is called "Give It All U Got."

"I basically got the tracks that I want down, and I just need to make some final touches." Lil Jon said in an interview at a recording studio.

Lil Jon, whose real name is Jonathan Smith, said focusing on other musical projects and the growing demand of his new wine label would tear him away from the recording process of his new album. But he's not complaining.

Character actor Lou Jacobi dies in NYC at 95

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Lou Jacobi, who was known for comic roles and won praise in dramatic ones over a long career in the theater and movies, has died. He was 95.

The Canadian-born actor died Friday at his home in Manhattan. The death was confirmed by Leonie Nowitz, a social worker who had been overseeing his care.

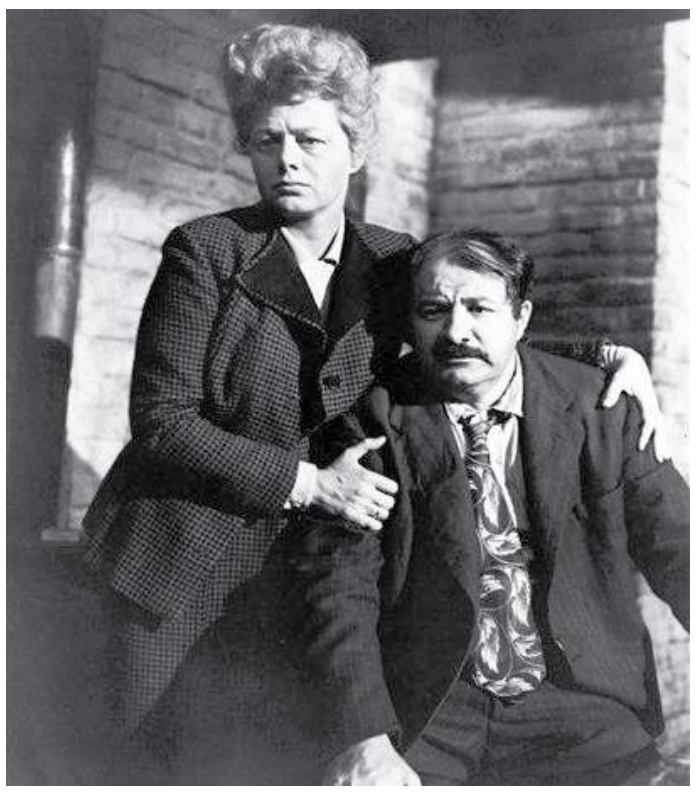
Jacobi made his Broadway debut in 1955 in "The Diary of Anne Frank," playing one of the occupants of the Amsterdam attic where the Franks were hiding. He played the same role in the 1959 film version.

He was in nine other Broadway plays, including Paddy Chayefsky's "Tenth Man" in 1959 and Neil Simon's "Come Blow Your Horn" in 1961.

Jacobi was in some two dozen other movies, including the Dudley Moore comedy "Arthur," Woody Allen's "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex" and Barry Levinson's "Avalon."

His last movie was "I.Q." in 1994. He played the logician Kurt Godel, one of Albert Einstein's professor friends at Princeton.

He also appeared in many TV shows, including "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." and "That Girl." He was a regular on "The Dean Martin Show" on NBC for two seasons in the early 1970s.



AP

In this undated handout picture from 20th Century Fox, actors Shelley Winters, left, and Lou Jacobi are seen in the movie "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Jacobi was born Louis Harold Jacobovitch in 1913 in Toronto and began acting as a boy.

He married Ruth Ludwin in 1957. She died in 2004. He is survived by a brother, Rabbi Avrom Jacobovitch, and a sister, Rae Gold, both of Toronto.

5 arrested in string of Hollywood Hills burglaries

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Five people have been arrested on suspicion of burglarizing homes in the Hollywood Hills belonging to the rich and famous, Los Angeles police said Friday.

Officers recovered items that were reported stolen by "well known celebrities," police spokeswoman Rosario Herrera said. She said she didn't know who the celebrities were.

The suspects were taken into custody Thursday after police served search warrants in four locations in Southern California and one in Las Vegas, police said in a statement. All were booked for investigation of residential burglary. Bail was set at $50,000 for each.

The suspects were 18-year-olds Rachel Lee, Courtney Ames, and Alexis Neiers; Diana Tamayo, 19, and Roy Lopez, Jr., 27. They couldn't be immediately reached for comments. Police also recovered three guns and narcotics at one location.

Herrera said she didn't know whether the suspects have any links to 18-year-old Nicholas Prugo, who was arrested last month on suspicion of breaking into the homes of actress Lindsay Lohan and "The Hills" star Audrina Patridge. Police alleged Prugo stole $170,000 in designer jewelry and clothes from Lohan and Patridge, who appears on MTV's "The Hills."

Prugo was charged Tuesday with two counts of residential burglary. He will be arraigned Nov. 11.

Man of her dreams needs wake-up call on manners

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged to the man of my dreams. Our wedding is two months away, and I couldn't be more excited about starting my life with "Jeff."

Only one thing bothers me. When the two of us eat alone together, Jeff throws his manners out the window. He kind of eats like a pig. He opens his mouth as wide as it will go and takes as big a bite as he can. Then, as he's chewing (even with his mouth closed) he makes noises. I can't get past the noises!

I know Jeff knows better because he doesn't eat like this when we're out with his parents or having dinner with friends. The first time he did it I thought he was joking. The second time, I thought he was just really hungry. Now I realize this is the way he eats. We have known each other two years, so we have had plenty of time to get acquainted.

How do I tell him his eating behavior gets under my skin? I don't want any children we have to learn these habits. Jeff has a tender heart, and I don't want to hurt his feelings.

LOOKING ASKANCE IN TEXAS

DEAR LOOKING: You are about two years late in telling your fiance how his eating habits affect you. If you can't discuss something as basic as this, how are you going to discuss the challenging problems that will inevitably arise after the two of you are married?

You said yourself that Jeff knows better. He eats this way in front of you because he thinks you don't mind. So please level with him now—before the wedding. It won't hurt his feelings; it will set him straight.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 13, 5 feet 3, and weigh 90 pounds. I just started high school. My parents think I'm starving myself. They call me "disgusting," "horrifying," and my personal favorite—"ugly." My brother calls me "Skinny Bones Jones."

I do not starve myself, nor am I anorexic or bulimic. I just happen to get full from small portions rather quickly—or I may not be hungry at the moment. At night I do some quick exercises and yoga positions so I won't feel bloated from meals. Some of my friends have said they think I have become anorexic.

Because of all this my self-esteem is at an all-time low. I used to weigh more than 100 pounds, but recently I got the stomach flu, which explains my sudden weight loss and fullness. Am I wrong in thinking I'm healthy? Are my family and friends right that I'm anorexic? Please help.

90-POUND GIRL IN FULLERTON, CALIF.

DEAR 90-POUND GIRL: When "everyone" starts telling us something we don't want to hear, it may be time to pay attention. One sentence in your letter tells me that you may have an eating disorder—it's your comment about needing to exercise after eating because you feel bloated.

You should be evaluated by a nurse at school, if there is one, or by a physician to be sure you're getting enough nutrients to remain healthy, that you're not overdoing the exercise, and if there could be a physical problem causing the feeling you're interpreting as "bloat."

Please share what I have said with your parents because it's important. Name-calling and ridicule are not the answer to a problem like the one you may have.

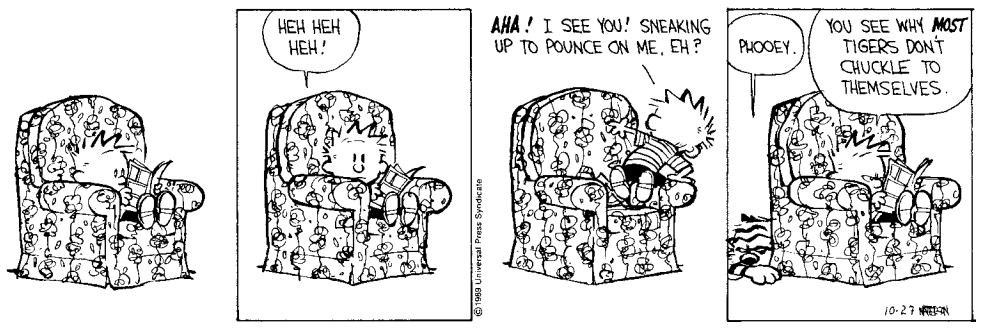
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEH HEH HEH!
AHA! I SEE YOU! SNEAKING UP TO POUNCE ON ME, EH?
PHOOEY.
YOU SEE WHY MOST TIGERS DON'T CHUCKLE TO THEMSELVES.
10-27
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MEN, I THINK THE CREATURE IS HIDING UP IN THAT VENTILATOR SHAFT
SOMEBODY'S GOT TO CRAWL UP THERE AND CHECK IT OUT...
YOU! PRIVATE WHAT'S-YOUR-NAME!
PRIVATE MONSTER CHOW
JIM DAVIS 10-27
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www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT'S OUR POLICY GOING TO BE ON TRICK-OR-TREATING?
LIGHTS OUT AFTER 9 O'CLOCK.
WHAT ABOUT TEENS WHO DON'T DRESS UP?
DEPENDS ON HOW FRIENDLY THEY ARE.
REALLY? I SAY, IF THEY CAN'T BE BOTHERED, WHY SHOULD I?
WELL, THEN YOU RISK BEING "TRICKED!"
GIVING CANDY TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T DRESS UP ALREADY QUALIFIES AS BEING "TRICKED."
10-27
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www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS WAY. THE K-2 METER IS GOING OFF THE CHART!
SLAM
FALSE ALARM! IT'S NOT AN UNHOLY POLTERGEIST. IT'S JUST THIS GUY'S SMELLY SOCKS.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THOSE GUYS FROM "GHOST HUNTERS" ARE REALLY GETTING ANNOYING.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

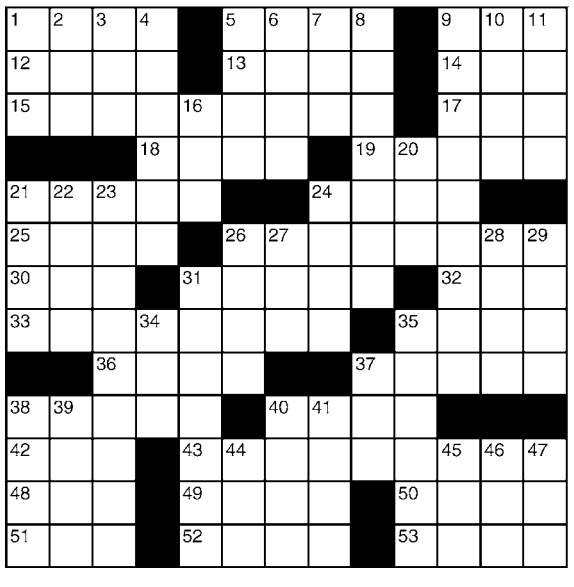
ACROSS
1 "— the night before ..."
5 Out on the briny
9 Branch
12 Near the treasure
13 Sci. course
14 Pi follower
15 Salad ingredient with a heart
17 Aviv preceder
18 You, to a Quaker
19 Bobby of Indy 500 fame
21 Nebraska city
24 Money of Ethiopia
25 Lean and supple
26 High- — (hockey infraction)
30 Superlative ending
31 Heart line?
32 Pirouette pivot
33 Airport listing
35 Sawyer's pal
36 Orsk's river
37 Surround
38 "Get lost!"
40 First victim
42 Spoon-bender Geller
43 Missile launchers
48 Extinct bird of New Zealand
49 Hiding spot
50 Shaving cream additive
51 Possess
52 Use a keyboard
53 Misrepresent

DOWN
1 Old airline initials
2 Kids' card game
3 Illustrations
4 Forge
5 Rue the run
6 Oxford, e.g.
7 "A mouse!"
8 Neil Diamond hit
9 Joint woe
10 Comical Caroline
11 Gangster's gal
16 Dance syllable?
20 Noah's creation
21 Hasn't paid yet
22 Catchall abbr.
23 Evoking Camelot
24 Nibble
26 Satan's buy
27 Bygone MTV show
28 Zilch
29 Well-bred chap
31 Inflexible
34 Mound stat
35 Guys
37 Puccini's "Un — di"
38 Wrestling style
39 Boast
40 On
41 Tour de France need
44 Siegfried's partner
45 Wapiti
46 Fish eggs
47 Evergreen type

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	R	K	■	W	E	E	■	M	E	G	A
S	P	O	N	S	O	R	S	■	U	P	O	N
D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	■	F	E	A	T
■	■	■	T	O	E	■	E	F	F	E	T	E
B	R	A	T	T	■	D	E	L	I	■	■	■
R	E	L	Y	■	D	E	M	A	N	D	S	■
O	N	O	■	C	O	V	E	T	■	O	H	O
■	D	E	M	I	G	O	D	■	Q	U	I	P
■	■	■	A	N	O	N	■	T	U	R	N	S
S	T	E	R	E	O	■	A	H	A	■	■	■
H	A	C	K	■	D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H
A	C	H	E	■	E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E
M	O	O	D	■	R	A	N	■	S	N	A	P

Yesterday's answer 10-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Osbourne, 25; Scott Weiland, 42; Peter Firth, 56; John Cleese, 70

Happy Birthday: There will be emotional issues to deal with this year and it's important to think clearly if you want to make the best choices. Home and domestic matters will be of prime concern. Solutions will be available to anything you come up against but you will have to be willing to make the changes required. This is a good year to clear the air. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 27, 30, 37, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make improvements that will pave the way to greater success. The relationships you have with others will be key to getting what you want in a timely fashion. Take action. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You don't have to buy something or donate to a cause if it's not something you believe in or want. Someone is likely to try to make you feel guilty but you mustn't go there. Busy yourself with friends, family or your lover. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put everything you've got into getting ahead and you will. Opportunities are waiting for you. A partnership can lead to an interesting new beginning that will contribute to your future financial situation. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Jump at the chance to take part. You need to immerse yourself in something that you feel comfortable with and do your best to ensure future participation. A change will do you good and help you realize your own potential. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let your temper escalate. If you back yourself into a corner, you will have difficulty reinstating your position. Compromise can help you avoid missing out on something potentially helpful for the future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use your knowledge and experience and share your thoughts with the people you work with and you will advance. A personal change at home will enable you to get more done, freeing up time for fun activities. Romantic suggestions will be well-received. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Talking about your plans will inspire you to get them underway. The company you keep will play an important role in how much you accomplish. Spend time with creative, encouraging people and your ideas will start to multiply. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep things to yourself if you don't want to endanger an important plan or project you have in the works. Don't trust anyone who probes or puts pressure on you to talk. Keep things simple. You don't need negativity or opposition. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Push your talents to the limit. Put your best foot forward and take action. A partnership can be developed that will help you professionally and personally. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): The importance of communication will be magnified. If you don't talk from the heart, leaving no room for misinterpretation, you will have to explain a lot or be blamed for not being upfront. Interact with groups that interest you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't sit back if there is something you want. Negotiate your position and be firm. Money, love and contracts can all be put in place if you are upfront. Use our insight as a guideline and you will intuitively know what and who to ask for help. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Not everything you need to know will be out in the open. You will have to ask questions and deal with each issue that arises. An incident regarding work will have to be handled firmly if you want to be taken seriously. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You will always take charge of any situation. You are charming and openly show your feelings. You will go to great lengths to ensure that justice is maintained.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			6		9			4
		5	7		4	6		
	4						9	
7			3		1			8
8								5
4			9		5			6
	8						2	
		1	8		3	5		
3			5		6			9

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	2	6	7	3	9	8	1
8	9	3	1	4	5	7	6	2
1	6	7	8	9	2	5	3	4
9	1	5	2	3	7	8	4	6
7	8	4	9	6	1	2	5	3
3	2	6	4	5	8	1	9	7
5	3	8	7	1	4	6	2	9
2	7	9	3	8	6	4	1	5
6	4	1	5	2	9	3	7	8

Difficulty Level ★ 10/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS Solution: 9 letters

P	T	R	H	E	P	E	E	K	P	U	D	P	F	Y
M	R	E	E	E	K	S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	S
A	A	O	C	D	A	O	A	R	O	O	M	O	R	S
I	D	S	F	H	D	T	M	E	P	I	P	J	A	E
N	I	O	O	E	N	A	I	S	N	T	E	E	Z	M
T	T	L	V	N	S	I	L	N	H	O	R	C	A	D
E	I	U	A	I	R	S	C	G	G	P	S	T	H	O
N	O	T	C	R	M	Y	I	I	R	Ⓢ	A	A	H	M
A	N	I	U	O	K	L	E	O	A	N	Ⓞ	T	E	E
N	A	O	U	B	H	C	P	F	N	N	R	Ⓞ	E	S
C	L	N	M	S	I	E	E	U	O	A	S	U	Ⓣ	T
E	T	I	A	V	R	T	A	H	E	O	L	T	O	I
E	L	L	R	T	Y	L	O	H	C	F	R	R	O	C
C	F	E	Y	P	L	M	A	R	E	B	U	I	L	D
C	S	A	S	H	E	S	S	I	R	B	E	D	S	E

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Annual, Ashes, Check, Climate, Climb, Dampers, Debris, Dirt, Domestic, Flashlight, Flue, Hazard, Hearth, Heating, Home, Ladder, Maintenance, Masonry, Messy, Mount, Pipe, Professional, Project, Property, Rebuild, Roof, Room, Safety, Season, Service, Smoke, Solution, Soot, Standards, Technicians, Tools, Traditional, Upkeep, Vacuum

Yesterday's Answer: Makeup

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to **WONDERWORD**, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Mary's and Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid, Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted. Thank you St. Jude. **R.S.M.**

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The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA), a non-profit organization is currently recruiting an Executive Director (ED). The ED will be responsible for setting goals, budgeting, grant writing, fundraising, project implementation, and building a strong, integrated conservation program. Detailed job description and application process can be found at www.minapacific.org under the "Job Opportunities" link. For more information, contact MINA at mina@minapacific.org, or call (670) 233-7333.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Jan April
May June

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Yankees beat Angels 5-2, advance to World Series

NEW YORK (AP)—They dashed from the dugout and in from the outfield, swarming Alex Rodriguez in a sea of pinstripes only steps from his spot at third base. "I couldn't be more excited," he said. "I feel like a 10-year-old kid." Making it to the World Series for the first time after all those misses will do that to you.

The New York Yankees, baseball's biggest spenders, finally cashed in with their first pennant in six years Sunday night, beating the Los Angeles Angels 5-2 in Game 6 of the AL championship series behind the savvy pitching of that old October pro, Andy Pettitte.

Next up, New York hosts defending champion Philadelphia in the World Series opener Wednesday night. Cliff Lee is expected to face ALCS MVP CC Sabathia in an enticing pitching matchup between former Cleveland teammates—and the past two AL Cy Young Award winners.

Ridiculed in the past for his October flops, the three-time MVP played a huge role in helping his team advance through the playoffs, batting .438 with five home runs and 12 RBIs. Thriving under late-inning pressure this time around, the slugger earned his first trip to the Fall Classic during a 16-year career in which he's accomplished almost everything else.

"That's what you play for," Rodriguez said. "In order to win a World Series, you have to get there first."

Cameras flashed in the stands throughout the ninth inning as the crowd roared louder and louder with each pitch.

After Mariano Rivera fanned pinch-hitter Gary Matthews Jr. for the final out at 1 minute past midnight, Mark Teixeira, Derek Jeter and most Yankees rushed to mob a jubilant Rodriguez near third base.

Rivera received a huge hug from catcher Jorge Posada in front of the mound. Then, Rodriguez and the Yankees partied with beer and bubbly in their swanky, high-tech clubhouse.

"I feared that I wouldn't be able to contribute, so I had a lot of limitations," Rodriguez said about his previous playoff failures. "The whole year for me was about trusting my teammates and being one of the guys."

Pettitte set a postseason record for wins, Johnny Damon hit a two-run single and Rivera closed it out in familiar fashion with a six-out save as the $201 million Yankees won their 40th American League crown by vanquishing the Angels, a longtime nemesis.

AP

New York Yankees celebrate after defeating the Los Angeles Angels in Game 6 of the American League Championship baseball series Monday, Oct. 26, 2009, in New York.

"It's really not a surprise that we are here. I hate to sound like that," said Sabathia, signed along with fellow free agents Teixeira and A.J. Burnett in a $423.5 million offseason spending spree.

Now, the Yankees go for their record 27th title—when manager Joe Girardi was hired two years ago, he took jersey No. 27 with that in mind.

Not a bad way for Jeter, Posada and crew to finish up the first season at the team's new $1.5 billion ballpark. As Yankee Stadium grew dark, Sabathia's and Girardi's kids ran around the bases on an empty infield.

"We want to enjoy this tonight. We'll worry about Philly tomorrow," Jeter said. "Hopefully, we can play one more great series."

For manager Mike Scioscia and his sloppy Angels, it was their latest playoff failure during a decade of steady regular-season success. Since winning their only championship in 2002, the Angels are yet to return to the World Series despite five AL West titles in the past six years.

"At times we played good baseball. At times we shot ourselves in the foot," Scioscia said.

After rain postponed Game 6 for a day, the clear weather and mild, 58-degree temperature at first pitch was a stark change from the first two games of the series, when the Angels froze up in the raw chill at Yankee Stadium.

Pettitte escaped a jam in the sixth, going to 3-0 on Kendry Morales before knocking down a comebacker with runners at second and third to preserve a 3-1 edge. The left-hander pumped his fist, then headed for the dugout.

With one on and one out in the seventh, Pettitte left to a standing ovation and tipped his cap to the sellout crowd of 50,173, the largest at the new ballpark. He earned his 16th postseason win, breaking a tie with John Smoltz, and his fifth to close out a postseason series—also a major league record.

"We've got a lot of confidence in Andy when he's on the mound. He's been a big-game pitcher for us for 14 years," Jeter said.

Joba Chamberlain got two key outs and Girardi went to a well-rested Rivera in the eighth. He gave up a two-out RBI single to Vladimir Guerrero, making it 3-2, then retired Morales to end the inning.

A diving play by Teixeira at first base helped Rivera avoid further damage.

It was the first earned run allowed at home by the 39-year-old Rivera in a postseason save situation. But the Yankees added two insurance runs in the eighth on a pair of Angels errors and Teixeira's sacrifice fly.

Rivera finished up for his record 37th postseason save, and the Yankees had their elusive pennant.

"You bring him in, you feel like the game's over. He's the best," Pettitte said.

Rodriguez reached base all five times up and drew a bases-loaded walk in the fourth that put New York ahead 3-1. Earlier in the inning, Damon gave the Yankees the lead with a single off 16-game winner Joe Saunders.

Including their unprecedented collapse against Boston in 2004, the Yankees had lost five straight times with a chance to close out an ALCS—and six in a row with an opportunity to end a playoff series.

But this time, New York got it done with leadership from Jeter, Pettitte, Rivera and Posada, all part of the late 1990s dynasty under manager Joe Torre.

As for Rodriguez, his tumultuous year began with a tense news conference to admit steroids use from 2001-03 with Texas, then hip surgery that sidelined him until May.

It will end in the World Series.

"Pretty incredible, especially with all the stuff I've been through this year," he said. "I just felt very happy and very blessed, and all I cared about this year was winning games."

Normally airtight on defense and fundamentals, the Angels made eight errors in the series and several other uncharacteristic mistakes. The miscues continued early in the clincher, when Saunders walked five in 3 1-3 shaky innings and Guerrero was doubled off first base on a shallow fly.

With no Rally Monkey bouncing around the video board in the Bronx, Los Angeles failed to pull off one of its signature comebacks. The Angels trailed in all eight of their playoff victories against New York, including a stirring 7-6 triumph in Game 5 on Thursday night that extended the series.

Looking to lock up the pennant, the Yankees turned to a familiar source of success in Pettitte. The 37-year-old left-hander delivered, allowing only one run for his second closeout win of these playoffs. He also beat Minnesota to complete a first-round sweep.

Always a picture of poise and focus in October, narrowed eyes peering between his cap and glove as he takes his signs on the mound, Pettitte also owns postseason records with 38 starts and 237 1-3 innings pitched.

Pettitte was pitching at home for the Yankees in the postseason for the first time since their last World Series game, a 2-0 loss to Josh Beckett and the Florida Marlins in 2003.

This one was a different story.

"They beat us fair and square," Angels outfielder Torii Hunter said. "It's just frustrating right now."

Sabathia all aces for Yanks, picked ALCS MVP

NEW YORK (AP)—CC Sabathia received a contract from the New York Yankees that matched his mountainous presence on the mound for one big reason: to lead them back to a World Series title.

And, boy, has he delivered so far.

Sabathia was picked MVP of the American League championship series on Sunday after two dominant performances in the Yankees' six-game victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

"This is a great feeling," Sabathia said. "This is what you come here for, to play in the postseason games and try to perform. This feels good but we have a long way to go. From Day 1 of spring training you could tell this was going to be a memorable year for us."

The 6-foot-7, 290-pound lefty pitched eight innings of four-hit ball in cold, blustery conditions to win 4-1 in Game 1. He was equally overpowering in Game 4 in sunny Anaheim, giving up a run and five hits in eight innings—on three days' rest.

"CC has been the guy that Yankees have paid a lot of money for and he's shown what he is capable to do," closer Mariano Rivera said.

The Yankees wrapped up the ALCS with a 5-2 victory in Game 6, meaning the 28-year-old Sabathia's next start will be a tantalizing one—he'll oppose former Cleveland teammate and AL Cy Young Award winner Cliff Lee when New York plays Philadelphia on Wednesday night in the first World Series game at the new Yankee Stadium.

"I want to hit. I want to hit against him," Sabathia said of matching up against Lee, but the designated hitter is used in the American League park.

Signed to a $161 million, seven-year deal as the linchpin of the Yankees' $423.5 million offseason push to return to the playoffs after missing out in 2008, Sabathia has brushed aside the pressure of the postseason from start No. 1.

After tying for the major league lead with 19 wins, he shut down the Minnesota Twins in the opener of the division series and is 3-0 with a 1.19 ERA for the playoffs. The success with New York comes after he went 2-3 with a 7.92 ERA in five previous postseason starts with Cleveland and Milwaukee.

The durable ace has struck out 20 in 22 innings and opponents are hitting just .205 against him.

"CC was huge for us," manager Joe Girardi said. "Our starting pitching has been outstanding throughout."

Usually all business on the mound in his baggy pants, Sabathia has shown emotion this October, especially in Game 1 against the Angels when he struck out pinch-hitter Mike Napoli to end the seventh inning.

Sabathia has been the No. 1 starter the Yankees had spent millions looking for since Andy Pettitte left for Houston and Roger Clemens temporarily retired after the 2003 season. Kevin Brown, Randy Johnson and Javier Vazquez all flopped in New York. And homegrown Chien-Ming Wang was a bust in the 2007 playoffs.

Sabathia slipped easily into the role, going 19-8 with a 3.37 ERA and 197 strikeouts in 230 innings, his lowest total since 2006. The Yankees went 22-12 in his starts and were 8-4 when he started after a loss. He was 11-2 after the All-Star break.

"CC is a bona fide ace," Johnny Damon said. "That's why he's the MVP."

Girardi was sure to give Sabathia plenty of rest down the stretch after the Yankees built a big lead in the AL East, and it has paid off in the playoffs.

Sabathia has gone deep in all of his postseason starts and still looks fresh enough to make three possible starts in the World Series. His ability to quickly rebound helped Milwaukee reach the postseason last year and has given Girardi the luxury of going with a three-man rotation in the best-of-seven Series.

Sabathia came close to reaching the Fall Classic in 2007, when Cleveland had a two-game lead over Boston in the ALCS. The loss left a big impression on him and was one of the reasons he chose to sign with the experienced Yankees.

"This feels good," Sabathia said. "Being up 3-1 in '07 feeling like we had a chance to go to the World Series and having that taken away from you, it feels good now."

Steelers' 2 defensive TDs beat Vikings

PITTSBURGH (AP)—LaMarr Woodley returned Brett Favre's fumble 77 yards for a touchdown and Keyaron Fox ran back an interception 82 yards for another as Pittsburgh turned three major defensive stands into a 27-17 victory on Sunday to end Minnesota's six-game winning streak.

Two goal-line stands helped turn the anticipated quarterback showdown between Favre and Ben Roethlisberger into a defensive duel. And the Super Bowl champion Steelers are tough to beat in any game that's decided by defense. The Vikings had a first down inside the Steelers 1 during the third quarter but settled for a field goal.

Saints 46, Dolphins 34

At Miami, the unbeaten Saints overcame an early 21-point deficit, mounting touchdown drives of 82, 79 and 60 yards on successive possessions in the second half to overtake the Dolphins.

NFL passing leader Drew Brees had his worst day of the season, with three interceptions and five sacks. But he scored twice for the Saints. Tracy Porter's 54-yard interception return sealed the win for the Saints, who're off to their best start since 1991.

Patriots 35, Buccaneers 7

At Wembley, England, Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes and had more than 300 yards as the Patriots beat the winless Tampa Bay Buccaneers in NFL's third regular-season game at Wembley Stadium.

For the Bucs, who gave up a home game to play in London, the new surroundings didn't help. They fell to 0-7 and saw their losing streak extended to 11 games overall.

Cardinals 24, Giants 17

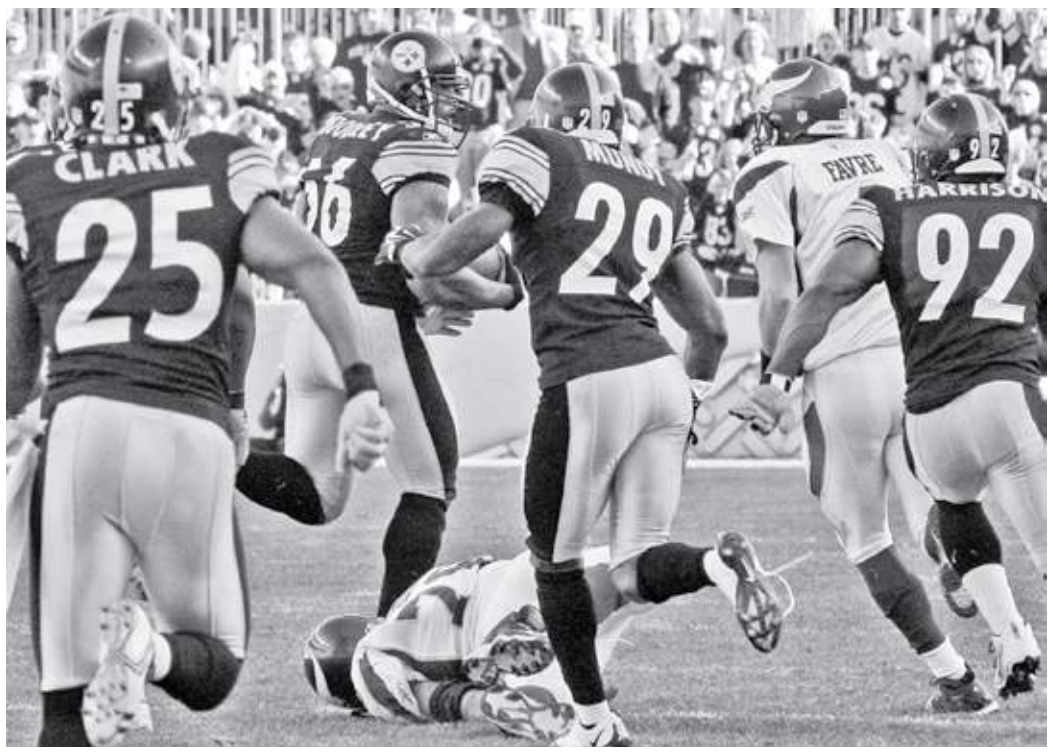
At East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Arizona Cardinals bewildered Eli Manning with their blitzes, forced four turnovers and used timely plays by their veterans to beat the New York Giants.

With less-heralded Cardinals Jason Wright, Tim Hightower and rookie Beanie Wells finding the end zone, Arizona took over first place in the NFC West. After starting with five straight wins, the Giants have lost two straight.

Cowboys 37, Falcons 21

At Arlington, Texas, with Tony Romo bringing the offense to life and the defense giving up little more than long drives at the start of each half, the Cowboys came off their bye with their most impressive win of the season and first against a team with a winning record.

Matt Ryan started well for the Falcons, but couldn't keep it up. His streak of 142 passes without a sack ended with takedowns on consecutive plays in the first quarter. He was sacked four times, threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.



AP

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley, second from left, rambles 77-yards for a touchdown after recovering a fumble by Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009.

Bengals 45, Bears 10

At Cincinnati, Carson Palmer threw five touchdown passes and Cedric Benson ran for a career-high 189 yards and a touchdown against the team that let him go.

The Bengals scored on all five possessions in the first half and went up 31-0.

Texans 24, 49ers 21

At Houston, Steve Slaton scored two touchdowns and the Texans built a big lead then held on for the win. The Texans led 21-0 at halftime then withstood a rally led by backup quarterback Alex Smith. Eugene Wilson's interception on fourth down halted a last-gasp drive by the 49ers.

Jets 38, Raiders 0

At Oakland, California, Mark Sanchez shook off the worst start of his young career by running for one touchdown and throwing for another and fellow rookie Shonn Greene ran for 144 yards and two scores as the Jets snapped a three-game losing streak.

This was just the fifth home shutout ever for the Raiders.

Packers 31, Browns 3

At Cleveland, Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes and Ryan Grant rushed for 148 yards as Green Bay belted the Browns.

Chargers 37, Chiefs 7

At Kansas City, Philip Rivers threw three touchdowns passes and LaDainian Tomlinson rushed for 71 yards as the Chargers won their third in a row in Kansas City.

The Chiefs (1-6) had hoped a sloppy win over Washington the week before might provide some much-needed momentum. But they played miserably in just about every phase of the game, falling behind 20-0 in the first half.

Bills 20, Panthers 9

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jairus Byrd had two interceptions to set up touchdowns as Buffalo won road games in consecutive weeks for the first time since 2004.

Colts 42, Rams 6

At St. Louis, Peyton Manning threw three touchdown passes and was 23 for 34 for 235 yards—ending his run of 300-yard games at five—and the defense got its first score of the year on rookie Jacob Lacey's 35-yard interception return.

Looking fresh coming off their bye, the Colts won their 15th straight regular-season game and set a franchise record with their eighth straight road victory.

The Rams lost their 17th straight regular-season game, wasting a season-best 134 yards on 23 carries by Steven Jackson.

Matteson wins Frys.com Open in playoff

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Troy Matteson blew a chance to win the Frys.com Open in regulation by bogeying the 17th and 18th holes.

Playing the same holes in reverse order in a three-way playoff, Matteson recovered from his late collapse. He birdied the second extra hole to beat Jamie Lovemark and Rickie Fowler on Sunday at Grayhawk Golf Club for his second PGA Tour victory.

"I just can't believe that it's ended up like this," said Matteson, who won $900,000. "I know I stumbled going down the stretch, but I'm still beside myself."

After all three players parred the first playoff hole, Matteson hit his approach within 3 feet on the 464-yard, par-4 17th hole. With shadows stretching onto the green, he rolled in the putt to win.

That capped an incredible three-day stretch for the 29-year-old Matteson. After shooting a 2-over 72 on Thursday, he thought he might be headed for the airport before the weekend.

But Matteson had back-to-back 61s on Friday and Saturday—a PGA Tour record for lowest score in consecutive rounds - and he took a three-stroke lead into the final round.

"That's as good as I can play," Matteson said. "I really don't have to worry about playing better than that, because that's it."

Matteson's first tour victory came as a rookie in 2006, when he won the Frys.com Open in Las Vegas, now called the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

On the first extra hole, Lovemark got a gift when his approach splashed into a man-made lagoon, then bounced onto the slope of the green. Lovemark chipped to 3 feet and made the putt to stay alive.

"It was crazy," said Lovemark, who called the fluke shot a "skipper."

Lovemark and Fowler, who are seeking PGA Tour cards, each earned $440,000.

Fowler has made $553,700 this season, which gives him special temporary membership because the amount exceeds the 150th spot on the money list last year. That allows him to skip the first stage of Q-school next week and most likely makes him exempt into the final stage. He is the equivalent of 136th on this year's money list, and still has time to reach the top 125 and earn his card without Q-school.

AP

Troy Matteson holds the trophy after winning the Frys.com Open golf tournament after a two hole playoff Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"I knew I was capable of coming out and competing," said the shaggy-haired Fowler, who tied for seventh in Las Vegas last week. "But to finish tied for seventh and then tied for first and then losing a playoff, pretty quick start."

The 20-year-old Fowler turned pro after the Walker Cup last month.

Lovemark has earned $453,872 and said he would go to Q-school next week in North Carolina. He needed to finish second alone to earn enough to be a temporary member. If he were to skip the first stage and take his chances at the Viking Classic next week, he would not be eligible for Q-school the rest of the way.

Fowler and Lovemark had finished their rounds when Matteson faltered on a sun-splashed afternoon in the desert.

After bogeying the 17th, Matteson (68) knocked his approach shot into a bunker on the 18th. He chipped to about 10 feet, then missed the putt to force a playoff with Fowler and Lovemark.

Fowler and Lovemark, who shots 64s, watched the drama unfold from a practice green across the lagoon from the 18th green.

"I'm more nervous right now than I was when playing, which is kind of weird," Lovemark told a TV interviewer.

Fowler led briefly midway through the round, but his bogey on 18 cost him a chance to win in regulation.

Lovemark had seven birdies in regulation, five on the back nine.

"I felt like I was pretty far out of it," he said.

Bill Lunde (66) and Tim Clark (67) tied for fourth at 16 under, and 2007 winner Mike Weir (61) and Bryce Molder (63) followed at 15 under. Weir had a chance for the fourth 59 in PGA Tour history, but parred the final three holes.

For most of the day, the tourney seemed to be a duel between Fowler and Matteson, who traded salvos on Grayhawk's Raptor Course.

Fowler entered in a five-way tie at 12 under, four strokes back of Matteson. But Fowler quickly charged into the lead.

Fowler aced the par-3, 203-yard fifth hole to go to 17 under and leapfrog Matteson. It was the fourth hole-in-one in two days.

Matteson, playing two groups behind Fowler, responded with an eagle on the par-5 fourth to jump back in front.

Matteson said he didn't know that Fowler was making a charge because he refused to check out at the leaderboard.

"When you've got a little bit of a lead and you start playing good on the front side, the worst thing you can do is look over and see somebody is 5, 6, 7 under on the day," Matteson said.

Pacquiao flies to Los Angeles

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao left for Los Angeles last Saturday with trainer Freddie Roach rating the pound-for-pound champion in 90 percent shape as he hunts for Miguel Cotto's welterweight crown on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

"Manny is 90 percent now," Roach told reporters during the Scoop forum on Friday. "We have handled the distractions very well."

Pacquiao will head to Los Angeles weighing 146.5 pounds, just 1 1/2 lb above the catch weight of the fight with still several training days ahead of him.

"I have to feed Manny five times a day in training camp to keep his weight on purposely," Roach said. "He has to drink three protein shakes a day. He hates the protein shakes."

Roach expects Pacquiao to be only 140 lb during the weigh-in and says the boxer could way 148 or 149 lb during the fight—which will be for Cotto's WBO welterweight belt.

Roach also warned that he'll call the fight off if Cotto comes in beyond the regular welterweight limit of 147 lb.

"Our limit for Cotto is just 147 lb [if he's overweight]," Roach said. "There's no fight if he weighs beyond that. Cotto will be assessed a $1-million penalty for every pound overweight."

Roach plans to sic Pacquiao on Cotto in the early rounds, noting that the Puerto Rican star is prone to slow starts and has fallen early in the bout several times during his career.

"The thing is I feel that if we go after him and pressure him right away we can get him out of there," Roach said. "If you see his tapes, he's been hurt in the first round at least seven times he's been down a couple of fights."

Cotto is listed as the underdog in the match, with betting lines listing Pacquiao a -250 favorite and his opponent a +190 underdog. This means that a $100 bet on Cotto can win $190, while to win $100 on Pacquiao, one would have to be $250.

But speaking from Tampa, Florida, Cotto trainer Joe Santiago said that he is confident his ward will pull off the year's biggest upset.

"When that night comes and he wins, everyone will know that Puerto Rico does have the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world," said Santiago. "Cotto is the first true welterweight that [Pacquiao] will have fought. He is young and still in his prime so that is what Pacquiao will face." ***(PDI)***

MIEKO

From Page 28

and timed in at 38:42 and 1:12:39 in the swim and run legs, respectively, for a total time of 4:54:38. The Tinian triathlete finished 420th overall and was entered in the men's amateur 20 to 24 age group.

Kevin Carey also competed in the amateur division (35 to 39 age group) and finished ahead of Manglona with a time of 4:23:11. Kevin submitted 34:44 in the swim leg, had 2:32:35 in the bike race, and 1:15:52 in the trail run to place at 350th and 47th out of 54 participants in his age group.

Dibens sets record, too

XTERRA Saipan Championship runner-up Julie Dibens of the United Kingdom made a mark in XTERRA World after winning the culminating event for the third straight time.

Dibens had a total time of 2:56:42 to finish first in the women's pro division and 28th overall. She was 15th overall in the swim leg after timing in at 20:25, 36th in the bike portion (1:42:48) and 31st in the run part (51:20).

Lesley Peterson of California finished second with her time of 3:04:16, while Melanie McQuaid of Canada was third at 3:05:46.

Bucher dropped to 14th in the women's pro with a time of 3:22:16. A crash in the bike leg cost her a lot, as she finished 131st in the bike race (1:567:06). She clocked in at 24:41 in the swim leg (115th) and 58:58 (107th) in the run part.

In the men's division, Spain's Eneko Llanos clocked in the race's fastest time of 2:37:22. France's Nicolas Lebrun was second at 2:38:17, while Austria's Michael Weiss (2:40:24) finished third. Former XTERRA Saipan participant Olivier Marceau placed only fourth with a time of 2:41:06.

SOCC

From Page 28

Guam's Haggan (42) and Animum Tasi Metgot (41) for the men's overall title.

Points were given based on how teams finished in the preliminary and final races. A first place finish earns a team 10 points, nine for second, and so on.

SOCC, which was composed of Sonny Downer, Joe Przyuski, Scott Hayden, Jim Sirok, Justin Mariano, Richard Sikkel, and Gil Birnbrich, topped the men's 500m and was second in the finals of the 1,500m and 12-mile races. In the preliminary races, SOCC finished first both in the 500m and 1,500m events.

Birnbrich said SOCC is looking forward to defend the overall title in Palau next year. He added Saipan paddlers enjoyed having tough races against strong visiting teams.

Animum Tasi Metgot ruled the men's 1,500m and 12-mile race, but dropped to only third place overall, as it placed only fifth in the 500m finals and fourth in the preliminary. Metgot had Joe Nowell, Shawn Franquez, Niklauos Chaco, Nate Chac, Mike James, Kai Artero, Pete Calori, Jeff Nantin, and Brooke Estes.

Haggan was third in the finals of the 1,500m and 12-mile races, and second in the 500m sprint. In the 1,500m preliminary race, Haggan was runner-up to Metgot and first in Heat 2 of the 500m race.

Members of Haggan were Scott Ishizu, Carl Aguon, Brad Villacrusis, Darren Guitierrez, Dave Camacho, Dave Blas, Al Sgambelluri, Duce Romias, and John Lacap.

Other teams that joined the two-day races and their total points in parentheses were Napun Haya (32), Waterfall Palau (28), Guatdan Tasi (27), Animum Tasi Fotte (26), Saipan's Fatuul (16), Taotao Galaide (7), Homegrown (5), and Bihun Tasi (3).

In the women's division, Poksai topped the preliminaries and finals of all three events to tally 50 points and prevail over Animum Tasi Metgot (45) and Animum Tasi Fottte (39).

Poksai's six members were made up of Natalie Calvo, Annie Gayle, Michelle Cerizo, Johanna Pfannenstiel, Nancy Greider, and Ann Marie Gawel.

Metgot, which was composed of Jennice Eckert, Jubs Estes, Leann Coleman, Chanty Fairholt, Pua Crisostomo, Pisha Del Cruz, Tia Flores, Madison Taitano, Lisha Taitano, was second in the preliminary and finals races in the 1,500, 500, and 12-mile races.

Fotte finished third in the preliminary and final races in the 1, 500 and 12-mile races, and fourth in the 500m. Fotte was composed of Jasmin Benavente, Annie Leon Guerrero, Sonia Alcom, Debbie Retuyan, Sue Schlub, Gabby Aguon, Angy Evarola, Rae Anderson, Ashley Evarola.

Other teams entered in the women's division were Mas Poksai (35 points), Fatuul (27), Taotao Galaide (24), and Lantau (5).

In the mixed division, Metgo reached the finish line first in one hour, 35 minutes, and 54 seconds, beating Japan's Ohana Hoe (1:39:37), Napun Haya (1:41:34), Galaide (1:46:06), and Saipan's Fatuul (1:49:32).

The Top 3 placers in each races received Micronesian bailer trophies during the awards ceremony on Sunday night at the pool side of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ROTA

From Page 28

unique swim, bike, and run course.

The Type A course requires participants to swim 1.5 kilometers, bike 40 km, and run 10 km to complete the course. For those looking to get more of a workout, B course will offer a 2.0-km swim, a 90-km bike course, and a 21-km run. Both events will begin at 6:30am.

"Our strong partnership with KFC Triathlon Club is setting the stage for another successful Rota Blue Triathlon in November," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "While we finalize preparations to deliver a world-class triathlon event to our competitors, KFC is working hard to get the word out to the athletes. We're looking forward to a great event."

The entry fees for the Type A Solo Triathlon is $80 (no completion time limit) and Type B Solo Triathlon is $100 (completion time limit is eight hours). Entry fees for Type A Team Triathlon is $210 for a team of three or $140 for a team of two (no completion time limit).

Entry fee includes an event T-shirt, awards banquet entry, and a guaranteed great time. Top prizes also await the top three finishers in the men's and women's categories. The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the CNMI, along with the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events.

Aside from KFC and MVA, the Rota Blue Triathlon is also sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Resort & Country Club, other government departments and agencies, and the people of Rota.

For more information about the triathlon, contact the MVA at (670) 664-3200/3201, or e-mail inquiries to kfc-onishi@gem.hi.ho.ne.jp, or contact Ed Diaz at (670) 664-3210 or via e-mail at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	2	0	.714	198	98
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	.571	152	104
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	113	138
Miami	2	4	0	.333	146	152
South						
Indianapolis	6	0	0	1.000	179	77
Houston	4	3	0	.571	167	158
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	120	147
Tennessee	0	6	0	.000	84	198
North						
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	163	128
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	167	129
Baltimore	3	3	0	.500	169	130
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	72	179
West						
Denver	6	0	0	1.000	133	66
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	161	143
Oakland	2	5	0	.286	62	177
Kansas City	1	6	0	.143	105	181

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	195	143
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	159	119
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	136	99
Washington	2	4	0	.333	79	96
South						
New Orleans	6	0	0	1.000	238	127
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	144	114
Carolina	2	4	0	.333	94	145
Tampa Bay	0	7	0	.000	96	203
North						
Minnesota	6	1	0	.857	206	148
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	161	96
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	129	144
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	103	188
West						
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	136	109
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	133	122
Seattle	2	4	0	.333	118	109
St. Louis	0	7	0	.000	60	211

Yesterday's Games

New England 35, Tampa Bay 7
Pittsburgh 27, Minnesota 17
Houston 24, San Francisco 21
Indianapolis 42, St. Louis 6
San Diego 37, Kansas City 7
Green Bay 31, Cleveland 3
Buffalo 20, Carolina 9
N.Y. Jets 38, Oakland 0
Dallas 37, Atlanta 21
New Orleans 46, Miami 34
Cincinnati 45, Chicago 10
Arizona 24, N.Y. Giants 17

FRYS.COM OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)–Scores Sunday after the final round of the Frys.com Open, a $5 million U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,125-yard, par-70 Grayhawk Golf Club:

(x-Won on second playoff hole)

FINAL ROUND

x-Troy Matteson, $900,000	72-61-61-68–262
Rickie Fowler, $440,000	65-64-69-64–262
Jamie Lovemark, $440,000	69-64-65-64–262
Bill Lunde, $220,000	66-67-65-66–264
Tim Clark, $220,000	68-64-65-67–264
Mike Weir, $173,750	66-67-71-61–265
Bryce Molder, $173,750	67-65-70-63–265
Alex Cejka, $135,000	67-67-69-64–267
Heath Slocum, $135,000	64-68-68-67–267
Nicholas Thompson, $135,000	66-68-65-68–267
Ryan Moore, $135,000	66-65-67-69–267
Chris Stroud, $135,000	67-65-65-70–267
Tom Pernice, Jr., $78,100	67-69-68-64–268
Rocco Mediate, $78,100	67-66-70-65–268
Tim Petrovic, $78,100	66-71-66-65–268
Tim Herron, $78,100	68-68-66-66–268
Pat Perez, $78,100	66-67-68-67–268
Martin Laird, $78,100	67-72-62-67–268
Ben Crane, $78,100	66-67-67-68–268
Justin Leonard, $78,100	66-64-69-69–268
Nick O'Hern, $78,100	63-68-67-70–268
Webb Simpson, $78,100	68-65-64-71–268
Chris Riley, $43,250	70-67-67-65–269
Chez Reavie, $43,250	70-67-68-64–269
D.A. Points, $43,250	65-71-67-66–269
Andres Romero, $43,250	68-68-70-63–269
Stephen Ames, $43,250	66-66-68-69–269
Robert Garrigus, $43,250	70-65-65-69–269
Greg Owen, $33,250	65-64-73-68–270
Carl Pettersson, $33,250	70-67-65-68–270
Bo Van Pelt, $33,250	67-68-67-68–270
Brett Quigley, $33,250	68-70-68-64–270
Spencer Levin, $26,417	66-71-66-68–271
Arron Oberholser, $26,417	68-69-66-68–271
Chad Campbell, $26,417	68-67-68-68–271
J.J. Henry, $26,417	69-67-70-65–271
Bob Heintz, $26,417	64-73-69-65–271
Nathan Green, $26,417	69-66-66-70–271
Ted Purdy, $18,500	72-67-64-69–272
Peter Tomasulo, $18,500	68-65-70-69–272
Scott McCarron, $18,500	67-67-70-68–272
D.J. Trahan, $18,500	69-64-71-68–272
John Merrick, $18,500	72-65-66-69–272
Rory Sabbatini, $18,500	65-72-68-67–272
Mark Calcavecchia, $18,500	71-68-67-66–272
Ricky Barnes, $18,500	66-70-71-65–272
Steve Elkington, $18,500	68-71-68-65–272
Ryan Palmer, $13,350	69-66-68-70–273
Kent Jones, $13,350	71-67-67-68–273
Billy Mayfair, $12,060	66-70-68-70–274
Jeff Klauk, $12,060	66-70-70-68–274
Matt Jones, $12,060	67-68-71-68–274
Paul Goydos, $12,060	66-70-70-68–274
Charlie Wi, $12,060	69-69-68-68–274
Steve Flesch, $11,000	69-68-67-71–275
John Mallinger, $11,000	70-68-66-71–275
Brian Vranesh, $11,000	68-66-69-72–275
Stuart Appleby, $11,000	70-65-70-70–275
Tom Lehman, $11,000	68-65-72-70–275
Vaughn Taylor, $11,000	69-66-71-69–275
Jonathan Byrd, $11,000	70-66-66-73–275
Chris DiMarco, $11,000	68-69-69-69–275
Jason Gore, $11,000	70-68-68-69–275
Greg Chalmers, $11,000	70-69-67-69–275
Brian Davis, $11,000	70-67-70-68–275
Fred Couples, $10,300	67-69-68-72–276
Matt Bettencourt, $10,300	69-70-65-72–276
Mark Wilson, $10,300	68-67-67-74–276
Colt Knost, $10,050	71-66-69-72–278
Steve Lowery, $10,050	67-67-76-68–278
Peter Lonard, $9,850	69-68-70-72–279
Johnson Wagner, $9,850	68-70-72-69–279
Parker McLachlin, $9,700	70-68-72-71–281
Glen Day, $9,600	70-68-74-70–282
Brad Faxon, $9,500	69-69-74-72–284
Michael Bradley, $9,400	70-69-73-73–285
Aron Price, $9,300	70-69-75-72–286

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHOGUNAI

From Page 28

son as members, bounced back in the second set with a 21-16 win and completed the upset with a 15-8 triumph in the deciding third set.

Other results last Tuesday on the PIC sandcourt saw Special Delivery beating Just Do It, 21-0 (forfeit), 20-22, 15-11, and Angamwas sweeping Git It (21, 6, 21-17, 15-13.

On Thursday, Random Radicals and Make It Bali played in the first game with the former maintaining their undefeated record after a 21-15, 16-21, 15-13 victory.

In the second game, Fisingan did not have to break into a sweat to nail a win after a no-show from Manta Diver.

In the third match, O-No ended its two-game losing skid with a 2-1 win over Chenutt Crew. O-No claimed the opening set, 21-12, before losing the closely fought second set, 20-22. The deciding third set was another tight match with O-No prevailing by only four points, 15-11.

Week 6 action in the four-person league will resume tonight with Pwipwise taking on Special Delivery in the first game at 5:30pm. In the second match at 6:30pm, Shogunai will duel Angamwas, while Just Do It will challenge Random Radicals in the third game at 7:30pm.

Thursday's matches are Make it Bali vs. Chenutt Crew; Manta Diver vs. O-No; and Git It vs. Fisingan.

General membership meeting tomorrow

Meanwhile, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will hold its annual general membership meeting tomorrow.

The meeting is set for 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Players and coaches are encouraged to attend the meeting, as NMIVA will be discussing important matters tomorrow, such as the association's participation in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau and the holding of indoor leagues and tournaments.

For more information, send e-mails to nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

2009 RGA Memorial Classic

2009 RGA Memorial Classic champion Manny Mangarero, left, is joined by Tanapag Elementary School principal Frances Ulloa during the awards presentation of the fundraising tournament.

2009 RGA Memorial Classic sixth placer Nick Sablan, left, receives his prize from Tanapag Elementary School principal Frances Ulloa, and the former later donated the $100 check to Tanapag.

Closest to the pin winner (hole No. 12) Jesse Seman, right, receives his prize from awards ceremony host Rose Igitol.

Closest to the pin winner (hole No. 3) J.P. Flores, right, shows his prizes.

Teachers and students of Tanapag Elementary School pose for a group photo after volunteering for the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic golf tournament held on Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Jeff Taylor, left, shows his runner-up prize of $400, while Frances Ulloa applauds him after the golfer donated $100 of his earning to Tanapag Elementary School.

Ladies low gross winner Shirley Jones, left, is congratulated by Tanapag Elementary School principal Frances Ulloa.

Low gross winner and double-peoria fourth placer Adam Hardwicke shows the $200 check he won in the tournament.

2009 RGA Memorial Classic third placer Asterio Tawapiy, center, poses with RGA vice president Manny Mangarero and Tanapag Elementary School principal Frances Ulloa during the awards ceremony at the pavilion at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Tony Rogolifoi, center, made it to the winner's circle in the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic after finishing fifth in the weekend tournament.

Steelers' 2 defensive TDs beat Vikings

LaMarr Woodley returned Brett Favre's fumble 77 yards for a touchdown and Keyaron Fox ran back an interception 82 yards for another as Pittsburgh turned three major defensive stands into a 27-17 victory on Sunday to end Minnesota's six-game winning streak. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees beat Angels 5-2, advance to World Series

They dashed from the dugout and in from the outfield, swarming Alex Rodriguez in a sea of pinstripes only steps from his spot at third base. 24

Mieko breaks own record in XTERRA World

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko Carey, seen here doing the bike leg of this year's XTERRA Saipan Championships, shattered her 2008 record after timing in at 3:35:44 in the 2009 XTERRA World Championships on Sunday (Monday on Saipan) in Makena, Maui, Hawaii.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan pro Mieko Carey had a record-breaking performance, while Tinian's Joshua Manglona had an eventful debut in 2009 XTERRA World Championships on Sunday (Monday on Saipan) in Makena, Maui, Hawaii.

Carey completed the weekend race in three hours, 35 minutes, and 44 seconds to eclipse her 2008 time of 3:53:38. The 21-year-old triathlete joined this year's XTERRA World as a pro for the first time and was 18th overall among the 23 pros who took part in the grueling off-road race. She timed in at 23:49 in the 1.5-kilometer swim race, 2:09:20 in the 32-km mountain bike, and 1:02:35 in the 12-km trail run.

Carey placed 161st among the around 500 participants, surpassing her performance last year. She placed 235th out of the 482 finishers in 2008 and won third place in the women's 30 to 34 age group.

"It was hot over here, but I am happy to finish the race without a crash," Carey said in an e-mail sent to well-wishers and friends from Saipan.

When the around 500 triathletes began the race at 9am on Sunday (5am Monday Saipan time), the temperature in Makena was more than 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carey said that despite the scorching heat, she, husband Kevin, and Manglona were lucky to avoid crashes, which hurt the bids of other pros, like XTERRA Saipan Championship five-time winner Renata Bucher and one-time winners Sam Gardner and Mike Vine.

"Kevin finished with no broken bones or broken bike," Carey added.

Manglona loses seat

Manglona was free from crashes, but finished the last 4.8-kilometer of the bike race without a seat.

He completed the bike leg in 3:03:17

See MIEKO on Page 26

SOCC, Poksai take overall title in Micro Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club and Guam's Poksai earned a free trip to Palau for next year's 12th Micronesian Cup.

SOCC and Poksai took the overall title in the men's and women's divisions of the 11th Micronesian Cup outrigger canoe competition, allowing them to win six round-trip tickets each, courtesy of event sponsor Continental Airlines.

SOCC emerged with the most points in the weekend event held in the waters off Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. It collected 46 points to beat

See SOCC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 11th Micronesian Cup at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Shogunai upsets Pwipwise in NMIVA league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shogunai posted the biggest win in Week 5 of the 2009 PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIFA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League.

The Scott Eck-anchored Shogunai stunned the then undefeated Pwipwise with a come-from-behind win. Pwipwise, which prior to last Tuesday's games was unbeaten in four matches, took the opening set, 21-12, but failed to keep its clean slate after losing the next two.

Shogunai, which has Felicia McFarland, Jenn Brown, Amy McRoberts, Nick Gross, Ed Cho, and Josh Erick-

See SHOGUNAI on Page 26

Nick Gross plays for Shogunai, which pulled off an upset over Pwipwise in Week 5 of the NMIVA 4-person beach volleyball league last week on the PIC sandcourt.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rota Blue Triathlon set for Nov. 14

The 16th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon will be held bright and early on the beautiful island of Rota on Nov. 14.

With just 20 days left before the annual Olympic-distance event in the Northern Mariana Islands, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan president Kiyokazu Onishi announced some exciting updates for this year's event.

Joining the event will be professional Japanese athletes Hidea Miyazuka, Taro Shirato, and Masayuki Matsumaru—all veterans of NMI athletic events including the annual XTERRA Saipan Championship and the prestigious Tagaman Triathlon.

Miyazuka added that *Triathlon Trip Magazine* will send an editor and writer to cover the event for the Japan publication.

This year's edition of the Rota Blue will consists of two separate events, both including a

See ROTA on Page 26

Guata and Teteto beach, the start-off point for the swim leg of the 16th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO